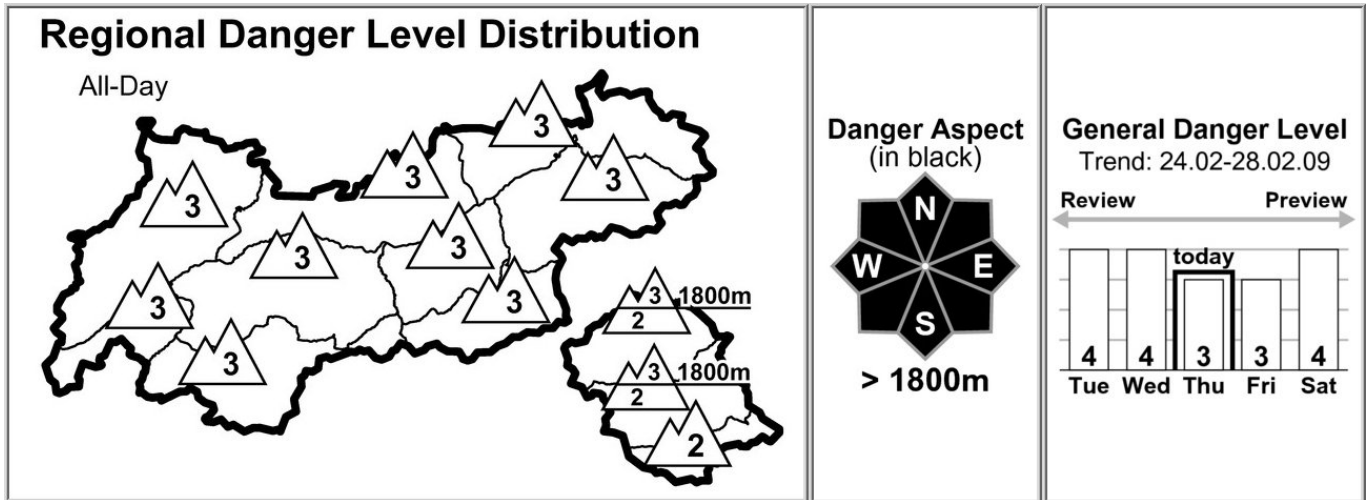


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 26.02.2009, at 07:30



## CONSIDERABLE AVALANCHE DANGER - RAIN WILL WORSEN SITUATION AS OF EVENING IN LOW LYING AREAS

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger has subsided somewhat: in North Tyrol it is now "considerable" widespread. Based on the weather forecast, natural avalanches are not probable today. However, if there is strong sunshine in North Tyrol, isolated natural avalanches are still possible on extremely steep, sun-bathed slopes. As of evening, the situation will become more delicate: amid the precipitation which is predicted, particularly the rain up to initially 1000 m, the danger of natural avalanches will escalate drastically. During the night, exposed parts of transportation routes can again be at risk. Ongoing critical conditions prevail for backcountry skiers and freeriders. Avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects, increasingly frequently on very steep slopes below about 2300 m and on steep south facing slopes below about 2600 m. Recently formed snowdrift accumulations are potential hazards above approximately 2300 m. Slab avalanches can be easily triggered by minimum additional loading, particularly in transition areas from little to lots of snow. All in all, backcountry skiers and freeriders must have experience in assessing avalanche hazards in outlying terrain. The situation in East Tyrol, especially southern East Tyrol, is much better.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack was noticeably weakened by the daytime warming yesterday, but in regions with heavy recent snowfall it has settled and consolidated well. However, there are still pronounced weak layers inside the snowpack which were responsible for numerous avalanches in the last few days. Most critical is a loosely packed, faceted layer full of air spaces which formed before 19.1. Below about 2300 m, this layer is increasingly a hazard. Also, on south facing slopes up to 2600 m in North Tyrol, a weak layer formed which can be unleashed. New snowdrift accumulations will form today, especially critical at high altitudes. Rain will make the snowpack markedly weaker in low lying areas.

### ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

General weather conditions: a powerful northwesterly airstream is bringing the next disturbance to Tyrol. Tomorrow, another ream of new snow can be expected. On the weekend, a high pressure zone will dominate. Mountain weather today: passable weather for backcountry tours during the morning, the mountains are mostly free of clouds, but visibility is quite diffuse. In the afternoon, clouds will move in and snow flurries begin from the northwest. Very windy. In the Dolomites it will also be windy, but sunny. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 6 to minus 3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 9 degrees. Strong to stormy westerly to northwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

In low lying areas rainfall will increase the danger of avalanches. On the weekend, numerous natural avalanches are expected.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe