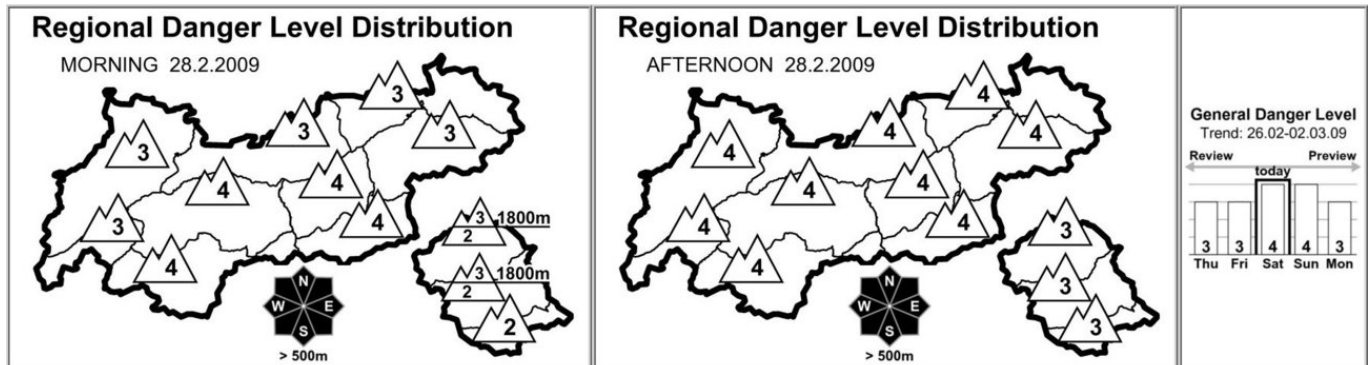


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 28.02.2009, at 07:30



## AVALANCHE DANGER IN NORTH TYROL IS HIGH - RISING IN EAST TYROL

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in North Tyrol is expected to be at the level "considerable" through the morning hours, then escalate to "high" in the afternoon, due to rising temperatures and intense, often diffuse solar radiation. Numerous natural avalanches are anticipated, including large sized ones, which can put exposed parts of transportation routes at risk. Avalanches are increasingly expected in the Stubai, Ötztal, Tux and Zillertal Alps, initially on very steep, east facing slopes, subsequently also on very steep south and west facing slopes, particularly at altitudes below about 2500 m. In addition, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations adjacent to ridge lines can be naturally triggered on extremely steep, sun-bathed slopes, which in turn can fracture to deeper levels of the snowpack. On shady slopes, natural avalanches are improbable today, except below about 2300 m. Highly unfavourable conditions prevail for backcountry skiers and freeriders. Even flat terrain is threatened by the runout zones of avalanches. In East Tyrol the conditions are better, where caution is urged particularly towards increasingly dangerous snowdrifted areas, which are fortunately easily recognized.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack, at least below about 2300 m, is poorly layered in all aspects: this is due to a layer of faceted crystals full of air spaces which formed in mid-January, whose bonding to the layers atop it is generally still inadequate. In areas with lots of snow from the Silvretta to Arlberg-Ausserfern, the Northern Alps and the Kitzbühel Alps, the snowpack was able to settle and consolidate well over the last few days, thereby delaying the dangers resulting from the daytime warming cycle, which will be more perilous in zones with less snow.

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

General weather conditions: an interim mild high pressure zone brings our weekend weather. The air current is shifting to southwesterly. At the beginning of next week, somewhat colder and more moist air masses will be pushing against the Alps. In the latter part of the week, temperatures will decrease noticeably. Mountain weather today: mostly sunny amid increasing, nearly springlike temperatures; the freezing level will rise to 2700 m in the course of the day. The clouds over the Lower Inn Valley will disperse. In some places, e.g. the Inn Valley, fogbanks can cling to southern mountain flanks for most of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 6 to minus 2 degrees and rising. Light to moderate northwesterly winds, shifting to southwesterly.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Numerous avalanches are expected tomorrow as well, due to rising temperatures.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe