

# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

### Sunday, 01.03.2009, at 07:30



Allgemeine Gefahrenstufe: 4

R2 Westliche Nordalpen	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4	R1 Arlberg-Außerfern	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4
R4 Silvretta-Samnaun	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4	R3 Östliche Nordalpen	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4
R6 Tuxer Alpen	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4	R5 Nördliche Ötztaler und Stubai Alpen	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4
R8 Südliche Ötztaler und Stubai Alpen	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4	R7 Kitzbüheler Alpen	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4
R10 Osttiroler Tauern	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3	R9 Zillertaler Alpen	am: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3 pm: < 500m 4 , > 500m 4
R12 Osttiroler Dolomiten	am: < 500m 2 , > 500m 2 pm: < 500m 3 , > 500m 3	R11 Zentral Osttirol	am: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 3 pm: < 1800m 3 , > 1800m 3

**Avalanche prone locations (am):** N,NO,O,SO,S,SW,W,NW>500

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## IN LATE MORNING IN NORTH TYROL: HIGH AVALANCHE DANGER

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Again today, the avalanche danger varies according to the time of day: in the morning the danger is considerable widespread; due to solar radiation and as temperatures rise, the danger level will escalate with it and reach the level "high" in late morning. Following yesterday's extraordinary avalanche activity, natural avalanches are expected again today, although far fewer in number. They will follow the progress of the sun: initially on steep east facing slopes which have not been discharged yet, then on south and later on west facing slopes they will be naturally unleashed. Exposed transportation routes can again be endangered. In East Tyrol, the daytime warming will be less pronounced, due to the more quickly moving clouds; thus, danger level 4 will not be reached there. Highly unfavourable conditions still prevail for backcountry skiers and freeriders. The snowpack will lose its firmness during the day, making avalanches easily triggered even by minimum additional loading.

### SNOW LAYERING

Through intense solar radiation and high temperatures, the snowpack has been thoroughly moistened: in all aspects of low lying areas; primarily on west to north to east facing slopes at intermediate and high altitudes. During the night, a generally thin melt freeze crust formed (above 2200 m it was somewhat thicker) which provided temporary stability to the snowpack. This crust will rapidly soften through the day and the firmness will be lost. Inside the snowpack is the layer of faceted crystals full of air spaces from mid-January which is responsible for most of yesterday's avalanches. Its bonding to the layers above it is poor. Caution is urged towards areas with lesser amounts of snow on shady slopes, where this weak layer can be easily unleashed by skiers and freeriders.

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

General weather conditions: the interim high is being replaced by a southerly air current which is gradually becoming more moist. On Monday, a weak disturbance will blanket the Alps, then in the middle of the week a Mediterranean front will bring heavy precipitation on the southern flank of the Alps and foehn winds on the north side. Mountain weather today: sunshine well into the afternoon, with scattered clouds. Then clouds will close in, especially rapidly in the Southern Alps and between the Arlberg and the Ötztal Alps, veiling the summits in fog and bringing weak showers towards evening. On peaks subject to foehn influence, the southerly winds will remain light. Temperature at 2000 m: plus 1 to plus 4 degrees, in the Southern Alps zero degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

The apex of avalanche activity will be over by the end of today. Depending on rainfall, increasingly frequent avalanches are possible below 1800 m on shady slopes tomorrow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe