

# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 23.03.2009, at 07:30



### Allgemeine Gefahrenstufe: 2

R2 Westliche Nordalpen	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2	R1 Arlberg-Außerfern	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2
R4 Silvretta-Samnaun	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2	R3 Östliche Nordalpen	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2
R6 Tuxer Alpen	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2	R5 Nördliche Ötzaler und Stubai- Alpen	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2
R8 Südliche Ötztaler und Stubai- Alpen	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2	R7 Kitzbüheler Alpen	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2
R10 Osttiroler Tauern	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2	R9 Zillertaler Alpen	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2
R12 Osttiroler Dolomiten	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2	R11 Zentral Osttirol	am: < 1800m 1 , > 1800m 2 pm: < 1800m 2 , > 1800m 2

**Avalanche prone locations (am):** N,NO,O,SW,W,NW>2000

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## BEWARE FRESH SNOWDRIFT ACCUMULATIONS ON STEEP SLOPES ADJACENT TO RIDGE LINES!

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Above approximately 1800 m, moderate danger reigns, below that altitude low danger. At present there are two major sources of danger: recently formed snowdrift accumulations, on the one hand, which are increasingly to be found on steep slopes adjacent to ridge lines and below sharp breaks in the terrain in all aspects and can be unleashed even by minimum additional loading; they are usually small sized and easily recognised. Secondly, west-northwest to north to east-northeast facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m must be assessed even more critically: particularly in transitions from shallow snow to areas with lots of snow, avalanches can be triggered by large additional loading. In wind protected bowls in the Tux, Zillertal, Stubai and Ötztal Alps and in northern East Tyrol, large sized avalanches are quite possible, especially at altitudes of 2000 - 2600 m, where the proneness to triggering is also more acute. In low lying areas, the dangers created by the snowpack becoming thoroughly wet over the course of the day could increase, making isolated full depth snowslides possible.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is by and large well settled and, at least on sun-bathed slopes, quite stably consolidated. The new snow of recent days is deposited atop a hard old snowpack surface which is often capable of bearing loads. In areas near ridge lines, snowdrift accumulations can be found which are often quite thick and, particularly above approximately 2000 m, are usually not well bonded to each other, making them trigger sensitive. On shady slopes, in addition, a loosely packed, faceted layer of crystals from mid-January provides a potential bed surface for slab avalanches. Particularly in wind protected areas, where the old snowpack is not thick, the snowpack can still be disturbed.

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

General weather conditions: a northwesterly airstream will dominate until Thursday. Today will be milder and drier. A cold front will arrive tonight and supply Tyrol with variable weather beginning with late wintery conditions once again. Mountain weather today: clouds on the northern flank of the Alps will lessen over the course of the morning and sunshine will come through in the afternoon. The clouds will persist longest between Rofan and Kitzbühel Alps. In western regions, the next cloudbanks will move in during the afternoon, but it will remain dry until evening in most cases. Tonight: snowfall and winds up to storm strength coming from west to northwest. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 7 to minus 2 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 10 degrees.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Escalating avalanche danger due to snowfall and storm!

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe