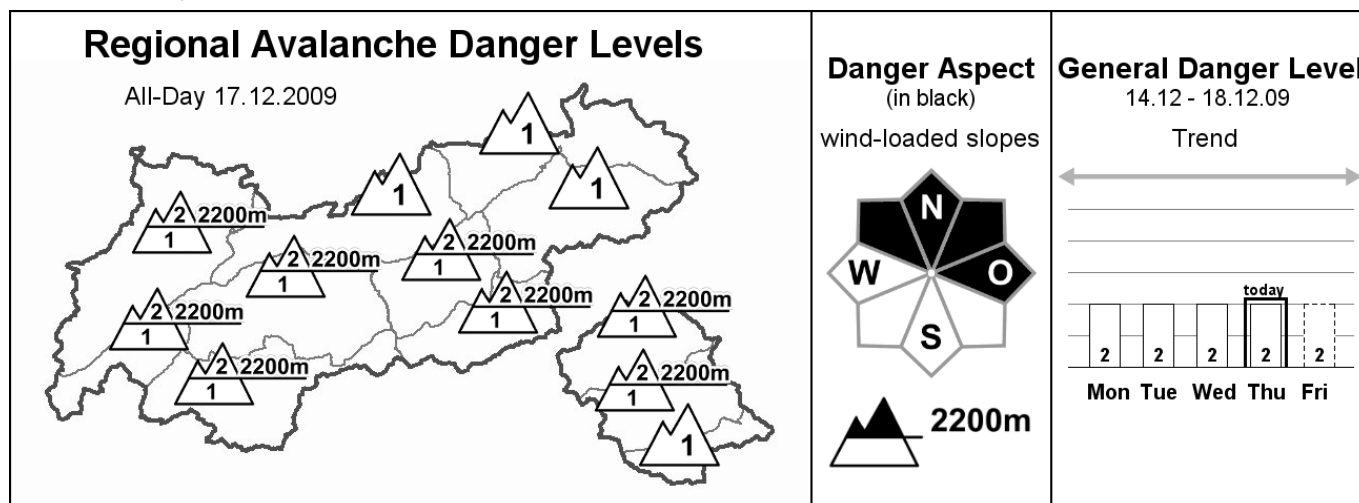


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 17.12.2009, at 07:30



### Mostly favourable backcountry touring conditions

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry ski touring regions, favourable conditions prevail by and large, accompanied by low avalanche danger widespread. Above approximately 2200 m the danger is still moderate, varying somewhat from region to region. The major hazard stems from snowdrift accumulations which are now generally blanketed by new fallen snow, making them difficult to recognize in open terrain. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on high alpine steep slopes and areas adjacent to ridge lines, predominantly on northwest to north to east facing slopes. Caution is urged towards the transitions from shallow to deep snowpack, e.g. from windblown areas to snowdrifted gullies and bowls.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there has been 5 to 10 cm of dry, very light snowfall widespread from the banks of high fog which reach up to about 2000 m. The snow surface, due to the persistent deep wintery weather conditions with clear nights and very low temperatures, is generally loosely packed powder. In many cases, surface hoar has formed on the surface. Even deeper down in the snowpack, the crusts are increasingly being dissolved in these conditions, thus diminishing the tensions embedded inside the snowpack. Especially above approximately 2200 m there are still small sized snowdrift accumulations which can be triggered as avalanches.

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

Weather: a rotating low pressure front in the uppermost layers of the atmosphere above central Europe is determining the weather, accompanied by very cold, but only minimally moist polar air masses. Between now and Saturday, the temperatures in Tyrol will drop even further. As of Sunday, the airstream will shift to northwesterly, then to westerly, bringing milder temperatures. Mountain weather today: in North Tyrol, overcast from fog and low stratus cloud cover up to 2000 m, above that altitude splendid sunshine all day long. Cold, but nearly no wind. The fog will probably disperse only the lateral valleys on either side of the Inn. Sunshine all day long on the southern flank of the Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 15 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 19 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable touring conditions continue.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe