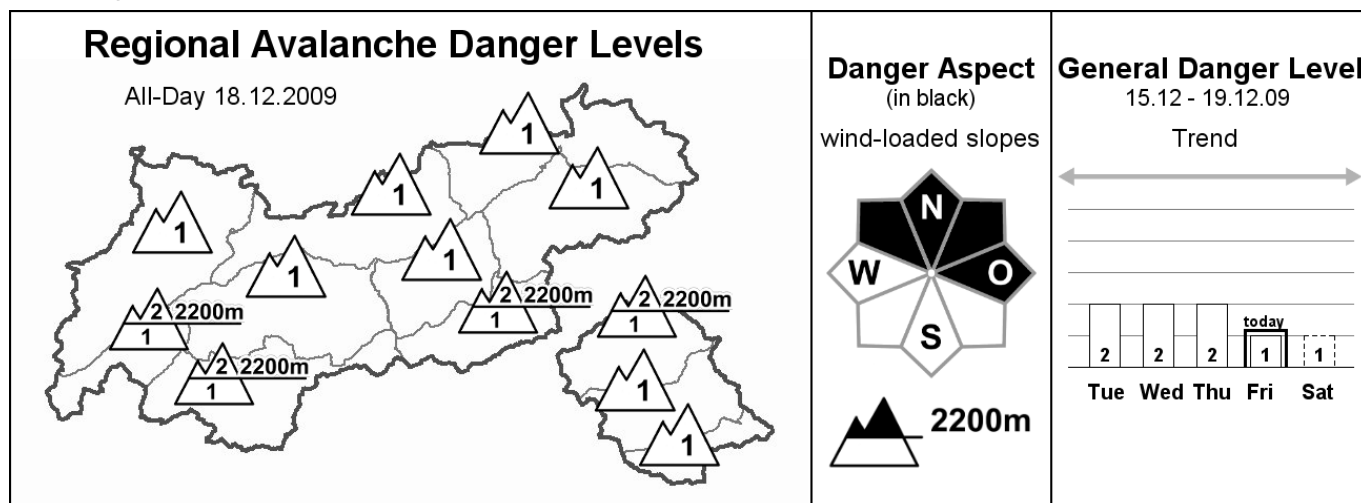


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 18.12.2009, at 07:30



### Favourable backcountry touring conditions amidst low avalanche danger

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

In Tyrol's backcountry touring regions, generally favourable conditions currently prevail, accompanied by low avalanche danger. The situation in high alpine regions along the Main Alpine Ridge is slightly less favourable: above approximately 2200 m, the danger is moderate, in general. The major hazard stems from fresh and older snowdrift accumulations, which are rather small in size and especially prevalent on northwest to north to east facing steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines above 2200 m. Caution is ongoingly urged in assessing the transitions from shallow to deep snowpack, particularly when traversing windblown slopes into gullies or bowls.

#### SNOW LAYERING

By yesterday evening, a few centimeters of very dry, light snow had fallen widespread from the high fogbanks, whose uppermost level was around 2000 m. Later during the night, the skies cleared. This new fallen snow blankets a snow surface which has become increasingly loosely packed and powdery, due to the persistently low temperatures. The deep winter weather conditions have also caused several hard layers embedded in the snowpack to become faceted and more loosely packed. All in all, the snowpack has relinquished many of the tensions inside it, which in turn decreases avalanche danger.

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

Weather: Tyrol lies at the centre of a powerful high/low which is filled with icy polar air masses which are also dry today. Tomorrow, however, the lower layers of the atmosphere will become moist and simultaneously colder. As of Sunday, the cold will gradually relent. Mountain weather today: arctic cold and sunshine; from the Main Alpine Ridge towards the Southern Alps it will be cloudless, in northern regions it is possible that fogbanks will cling to the mountain flanks in places. At all altitudes, light winds. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 14 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 20 degrees. Light, generally northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Favourable backcountry touring conditions, amidst low avalanche danger, continue.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe