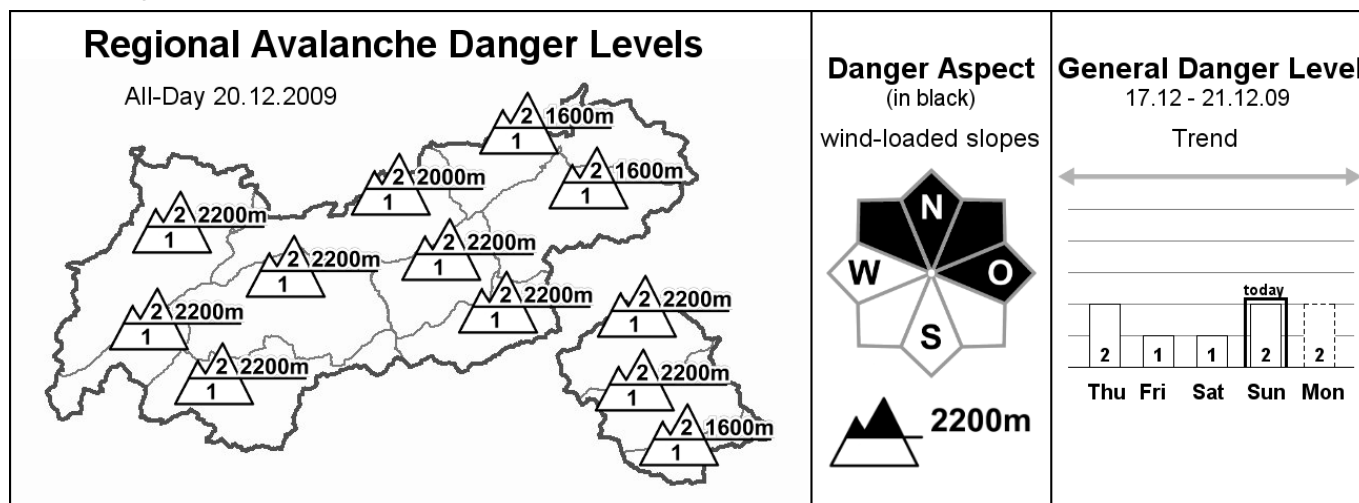


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Sunday, 20.12.2009, at 07:30



### New snowdrift accumulations increase avalanche danger to moderate widespread

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The new fallen snow and increasing wind velocity are escalating the avalanche danger somewhat, which above approximately 2200 m is now moderate widespread. The major hazard stems from old and new snowdrift accumulations. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines above approximately 2200 m, mainly on northwest to north to east facing slopes. Potential avalanches are small sized, but the relatively brittle masses of drifted snow can easily be triggered. Caution: as wind velocities increase, the avalanche danger will also slightly increase over the course of the day.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Over the last 24 hours there was 5 to 10 cm of snowfall widespread throughout Tyrol. The westerly to northwesterly high altitude winds were often moderate, which transported the very light, loosely packed freshly fallen snow. Above approximately 2200 m, new, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations have formed. Freshly fallen snow and snowdrift alike blanket a generally loosely packed old snowpack. The persistently low temperatures and deep winter conditions are, however, helping to dissolve some of the harder crusts embedded in the snowpack, which gradually diminishes the tensions inside it.

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

Weather: from a low over the North Sea, a disturbance will move towards Vorarlberg from the northwest this evening. Behind it, the high altitude air current will shift to westerly, then tomorrow to southwesterly. The cold air masses will be replaced by significantly warmer air during Christmas week. Mountain weather today: the sun is shining on the summits, but following a clear night it is still extremely cold, particularly on the 3000-meter peaks. This afternoon, temperatures will rise somewhat, but the increasing wind velocity will make the chill factor rise. Tonight a few centimeters of snowfall is expected in the Northern Alps. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 20 to minus 13 degrees; temperature at 3000 m: minus 25 to minus 18 degrees. Brisk westerly to northwesterly winds at high altitudes; this evening the westerly winds will reach storm strength.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Slightly increasing avalanche danger due to rising wind velocity.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe