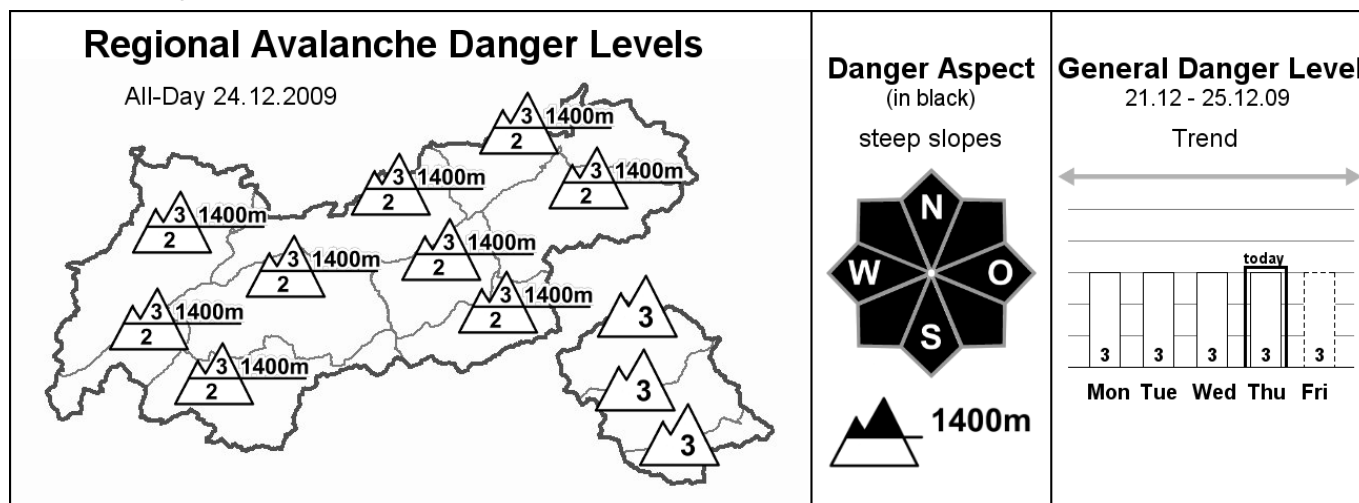


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Thursday, 24.12.2009, at 07:30



**For backcountry skiers and freeriders, conditions still critical. Considerable danger widespread.**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche situation remains treacherous, especially for backcountry skiers and freeriders. All steep, snowdrifted slopes are perilous, in all expositions, although particularly northwest to north to southeast facing slopes bear maximum hazards. The snow distribution is extremely irregular, tending to draw backcountry skiers to the drifted spots of deep snow which are, in fact, the most dangerous of all at the moment. Due to increasing wind velocities, isolated natural avalanches can be expected again today in very steep areas adjacent to ridge lines, especially in northwest to north to northeast expositions. Since the precipitation in East Tyrol intensified during the night, naturally triggered avalanches are more likely. In addition, the rain in East Tyrol will increase the frequency of full depth snowslides on steep, grassy hillsides in low lying areas. In North Tyrol below about 1400 m, the situation is now more favourable, with moderate danger due to far less snow. All in all, backcountry skiers and freeriders are urged to extreme caution and restraint. Moreover, detailed knowledge of avalanche danger and evaluation is imperative in outlying terrain.

### SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday the snowpack surface in most areas of Tyrol was thoroughly moistened up to 1400 m, in some places up to 2000 m, by the short bursts of rainfall. Following a brief pause in the winds, velocities have now again increased drastically, transporting large amounts of snow. The snowdrift masses which have formed since Sunday are without exception poorly bonded to the old snowpack, as is amply demonstrated by snowpack analysis as well as by the massive settlement noises to be heard when walking over the snowpack, not to speak of the numerous avalanches involving people over the last few days. Caution: even a hard snowpack surface is poorly consolidated with the old snow; it is highly trigger sensitive!

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

Mountain weather today: on the northern flank of the Alps, foehn winds in many regions; from the Main Alpine Ridge towards the south, clouds are densely packed against the Alpine barrier and it is snowing. Snowfall level will rise from 1400 m to 1800 m. Temperature at 2000 m: zero to plus 5 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 4 degrees. Strong to stormy southwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Unfortunately, conditions remain highly unfavourable for backcountry skiers.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe