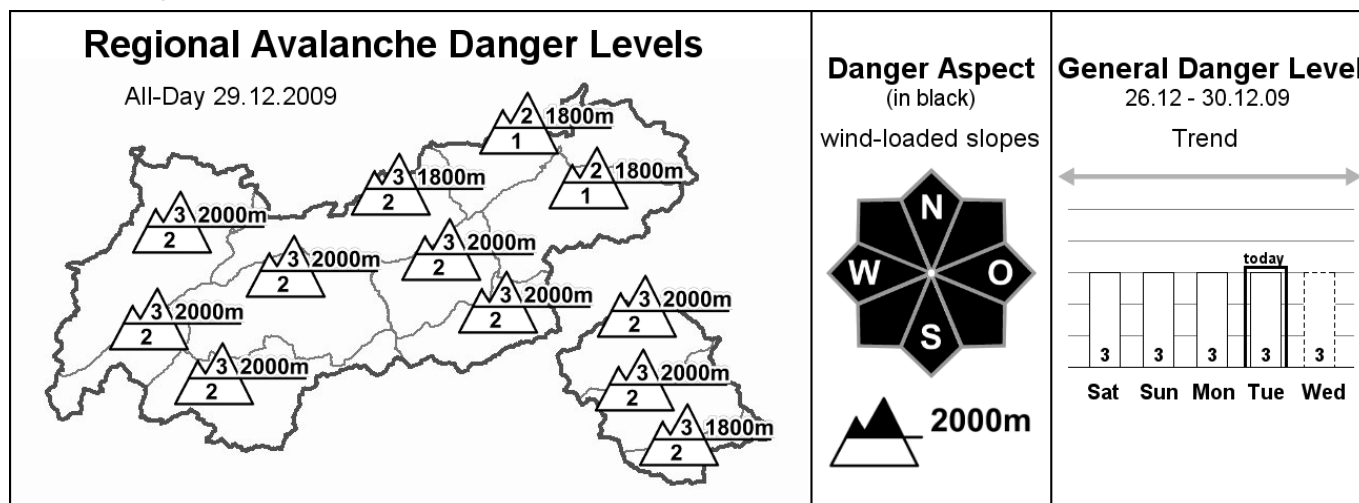


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Tuesday, 29.12.2009, at 07:30



### Considerable avalanche danger widespread above 2000 m

#### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger in Tyrol's backcountry touring regions is considerable far and wide above approximately 2000 m. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions. Avalanches can be triggered in the more recent layers of snow, but also in the old snowpack, even by minimum additional loading. The trigger sensitivity in the old snowpack is highest in transition areas from shallow to deep snowpack, i.e. when traversing wide windblown ridges into snowdrifted gullies and bowls. Backcountry skiers and freeriders in outlying terrain away from secured ski slopes still require extensive experience in reading and assessing avalanche dangers.

#### SNOW LAYERING

Yesterday, again, high altitude westerly winds were generally of velocities to transport snow; this led to the creation of new snowdrift accumulations. Both fresher and older snowdrift accumulations blanket an old snowpack which, particularly in high alpine regions, consists of loosely packed, unbonded snow crystals. The bonding of the snowdrift to the old snowpack is generally quite poor, so that avalanches can be relatively easily triggered. At low and intermediate altitudes, the old snowpack is often moistened.

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

Weather: in a westerly air current, the edge of a warm front will sweep across the northern flank of the Alps today. The milder air masses will bring unstable, variable weather over the final days of the year. Mountain weather today: the higher peaks on the northern flank of the Alps are often veiled in cloud, accompanied by light snowfall, particularly from the Arlberg region along the Northern Alps as far as the Karwendel. Below about 1700 m, the snow will gradually turn to rain during the afternoon. In regions subject to foehn wind influence, little or no precipitation. Variably cloudy with bright intervals in the Dolomites. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 3 to plus 1 degree; at 3000 m: minus 8 to minus 5 degrees and rising. Strong to stormy westerly winds at high altitudes in the afternoon and evening, in foehn regions the wind will be southerly.

#### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Some snowfall amidst strong to stormy winds prevent any improvement in the avalanche situation.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe