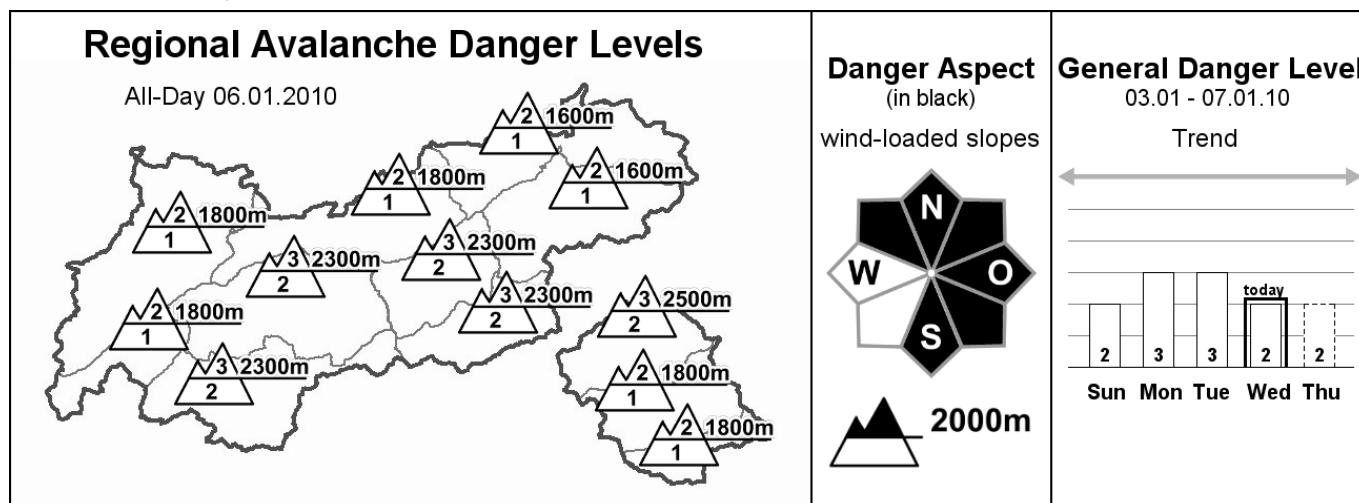


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Wednesday, 06.01.2010, at 07:30



## Fresh snowdrift above the treeline is still major hazard for backcountry skiers and freeriders

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains by and large dependent on altitude: below the treeline, the danger is now low widespread; above the treeline in northern regions, the peril is moderate in general. Further to the south, the danger is moderate up to about 2300 m, in northern East Tyrol up to about 2500 m. Above that altitude, the danger continues to be considerable, due to the high frequency and wide distribution of avalanche prone locations. The major peril stems from snowdrift accumulations which formed last Saturday, primarily at altitudes above the treeline. Their proneness to triggering has subsided somewhat but great caution is still urged towards these danger zones, which occur primarily behind breaks in terrain as well as in gullies and bowls. In steep terrain, they should be avoided when possible. Above approximately 2300 m, in addition, avalanches on very steep west to north to east facing slopes are possible inside the old snowpack, primarily through large additional loading. In steep transition areas from shallow to deep snow, isolated avalanches can even be triggered by minimum additional loading.

### SNOW LAYERING

The snowpack is slowly forfeiting some of its inner tensions due to the cold, but above the treeline many trigger sensitive snowdrift masses which formed last Saturday are still evident. Most of them are not very deep and can be easily recognized. Beneath these snowdrift masses there is often a thin, loosely packed layer which in turn lies atop a hard melt freeze crust up to at least 2300 m, in East Tyrol up to 2700 m in some areas. Elsewhere the snowpack at low and intermediate altitudes is riddled with several thin and hard layers, alternating with soft layers. At high altitudes and in high alpine regions, in addition, loosely packed - and thus, trigger sensitive - layers can still be found near to the ground in some places.

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

Mountain weather today: only high altitude clouds to begin with, the mountains are in clear skies. However, visibility is very diffuse. In the course of the afternoon it will turn overcast and tonight a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated. The cold persists. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 8 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 13 degrees. Light westerly to southwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe