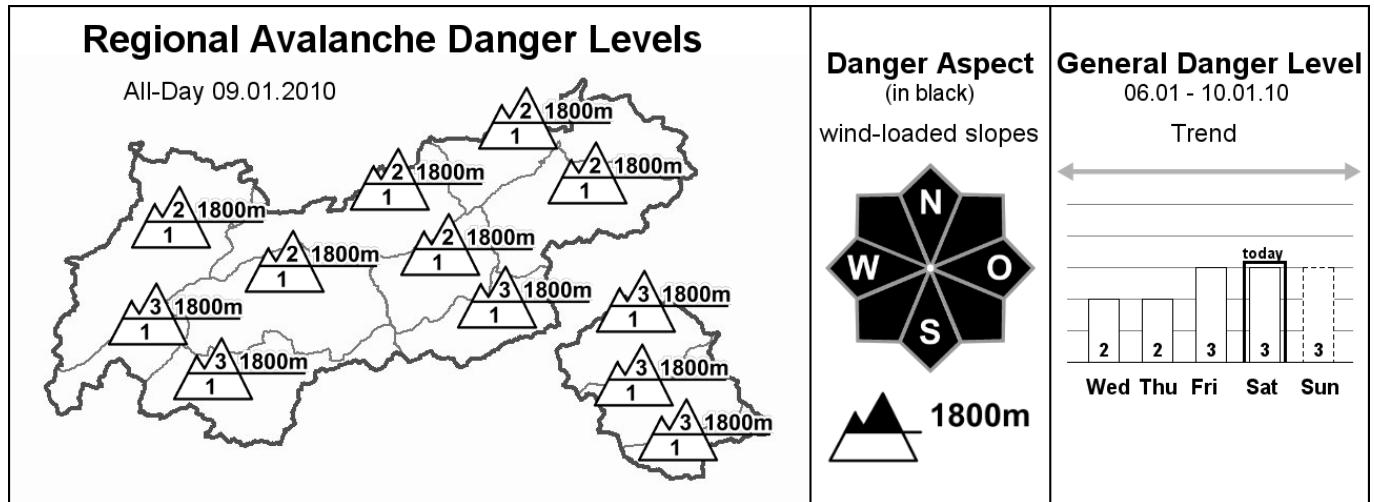


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 09.01.2010, at 07:30



**Special caution urged in west to north to east facing areas adjacent to ridge lines**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger escalates with increasing altitude. Below the treeline where little wind influence has been felt, the danger level is generally low. Above that altitude in northern regions, it is widespread moderate. Further to the south, it is considerable. The danger is the immediate consequence of yesterday's snowfall and the strong winds at high altitudes, which led to wide ranging snowdrift accumulations forming which can be triggered even through minimum additional loading, e.g. the weight of a single backcountry skier or freerider. Such avalanche prone locations are increasingly found in steep, west to north to east facing areas adjacent to ridge lines. In addition, caution is urged towards snowdrift accumulations throughout Tyrol which formed a week ago and can most easily be released on very steep northeast to east to south facing slopes below about 2500 m. The small amount of new fallen snow has now blanketed this snowdrift and made it difficult to see, thus, the danger is not immediately apparent. Above approximately 2300 m, in addition, in very steep transition areas from shallow to deep snow, avalanches can be triggered in layers near the ground by large additional loading.

### SNOW LAYERING

It snowed throughout Tyrol yesterday. In southern East Tyrol there was as much as 20 cm. Towards the north, the snowfall was significantly less, generally about 5 cm. A dominating factor yesterday was the strong southerly wind in many places, especially at high altitudes along the Main Alpine Ridge and in East Tyrol. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which it caused cover a cold, often loosely packed old snowpack surface atop of which surface hoar had formed in many areas. Snowdrift masses up to about 2500 m are often deposited on top of a loosely packed layer of new fallen snow, which in turn lies upon a melt freeze crust usually capable of bearing loads. The tensions inside the snowpack have diminished over recent days, but in those places where the snowdrift is deep they are still trigger sensitive.

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

Mountain weather today: clouds and fog impede visibility up to about 1600 to 2000 m. A few snowflakes may be seen from time to time. The higher summits will enjoy a bit of sunshine. During the afternoon, clouds will move in and snowfall is possible throughout the land. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 4 to minus 9 degrees, in far southern regions -3 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 8 degrees. Moderate southeasterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the avalanche situation.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe