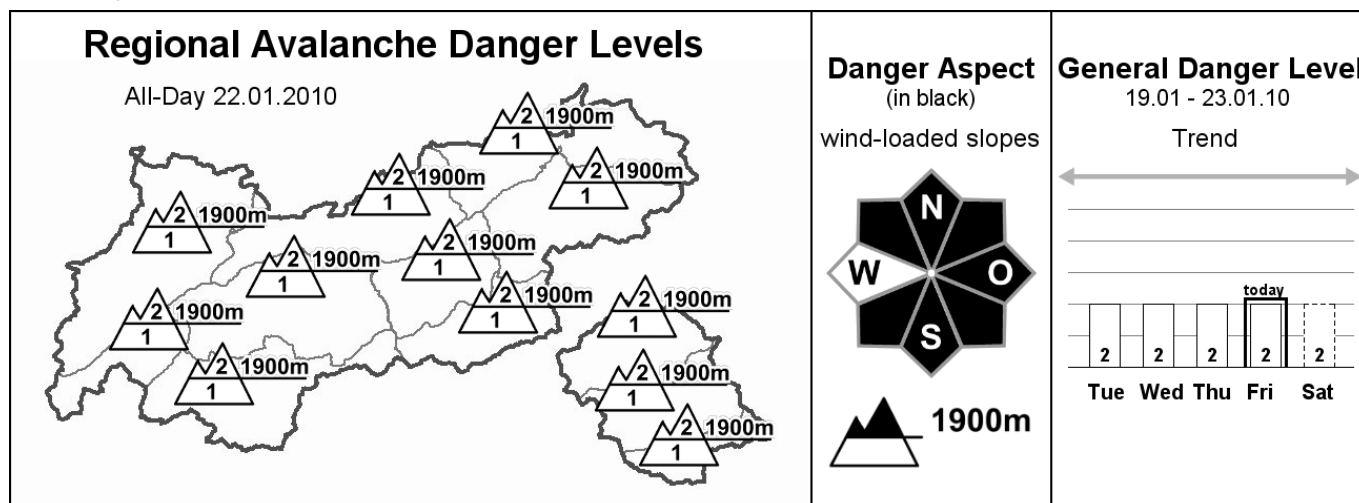


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 22.01.2010, at 07:30



**Avoid fresh, usually small snowdrift accumulations in steep terrain**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains contingent upon altitude: above approximately 1900 m, moderate danger prevails; below that altitude, low danger. Caution is urged towards recent snowdrift accumulations, particularly those which formed yesterday. They are generally small sized and in areas adjacent to ridge lines, in gullies and bowls in northwestern to northeastern to southwestern exposition. Minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger avalanches from them, although their fracture breadth is not large. With some experience in reading and assessing the hazards, they can usually be easily recognized, despite their thin covering of new fallen snow. In addition, in steep transition areas from shallow to deep snow, backcountry skiers or freeriders can release slab avalanches in isolated cases through large additional loading; due to the current snow layering, this is possible in all expositions. A hard, hollow-sounding snowpack in steep terrain is also a sign of peril and should be avoided whenever possible.

### SNOW LAYERING

Generally 5 cm of snowfall has not much improved the unfortunate snow depths at low and intermediate altitudes. In northern regions the snow depths are still below average; towards the south the situation is somewhat better. The snowpack is very low in tensions up to the treeline, consisting mostly of loosely packed, faceted crystal layers interspersed with thin melt-freeze crusts. With increasing altitude, more frequent hardened wind pressed layers of varying thickness are embedded in the snowpack. A thin melt-freeze crust which in turn is often enclosed inside thin, loosely packed layers, is also evident up to 2700 m. The fresh snowdrift is in many places poorly bonded with the loosely packed layers of snow near the surface.

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

From the very start of the day, pure sunshine from the Arlberg to the Stubai Alps as well as on the southern flank of the Alps. From the Northern Alps over the Zillertal Alps as far as the Hohe Tauern, poor visibility to begin with from residual clouds, in eastern regions a few snowflakes can be expected. The remaining clouds should disperse over the course of the day. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 to minus 6 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 14 to minus 9 degrees. Light to moderate northerly to northwesterly winds at high altitudes.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Relatively small snowdrift masses are still the major peril for backcountry skiers and freeriders.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe