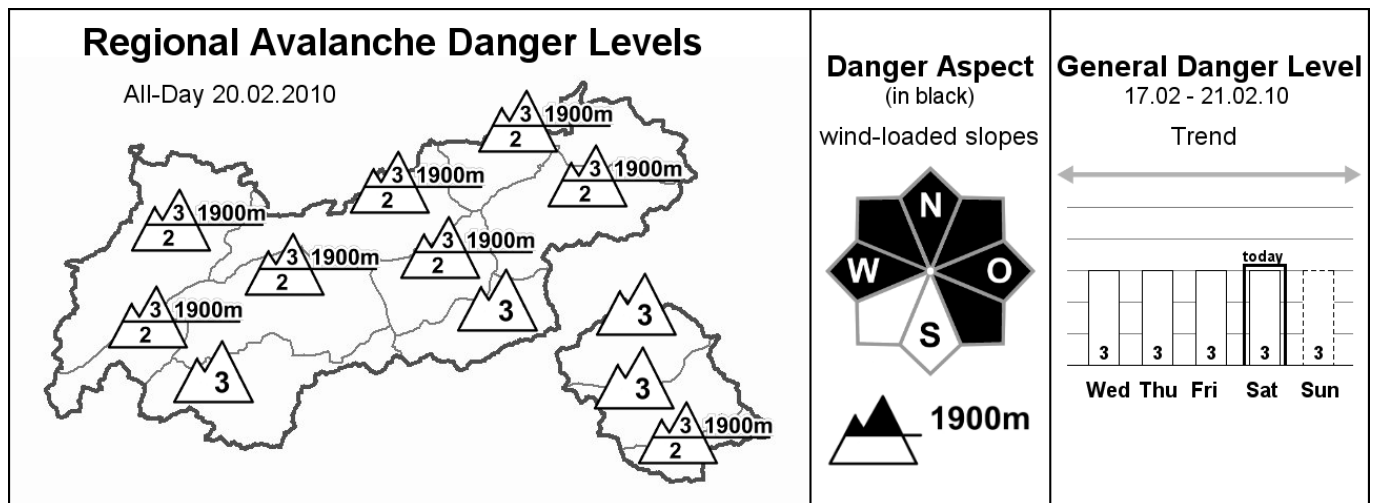


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Saturday, 20.02.2010, at 07:30



**Beware steep snowdrifted slopes above 1900 m!**

### AVALANCHE DANGER

In northern and southern regions, the danger below about 1900 m is generally moderate. Above that altitude it is considerable. Along the Main Alpine Ridge the danger is generally considerable, due to the lower snow level there and thus, a wetter snowpack at lower altitudes. Backcountry skiers and freeriders currently need to be especially cautious of three hazards: the often storm strength winds at high altitudes have brought about new danger zones in the form of snowdrift accumulations which are prevalent in west to north to east facing areas near ridge lines and in gullies and bowls. Particularly above approximately 2400 m, these snowdrift masses can easily be triggered by the weight of one single skier or freerider, even more so as the terrain becomes steeper and shadier. The second peril lies in the older snowdrift accumulations which particularly on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 1900 m can be released by minimum additional loading. The fresh fallen snow covers and conceals these danger zones, so they can ordinarily not be recognized. Especially hazardous is terrain which has been little used all winter long. At low and intermediate altitudes on very steep slopes in all expositions, small sized wet snowslides can be released.

### SNOW LAYERING

It snowed last night throughout Tyrol, most of which fell along the Main Alpine Ridge from the southern Stubai Alps eastwards and in the southern regions of East Tyrol (up to 25 cm). Elsewhere there was generally 10 cm of snowfall. Yesterday's stormy southerly winds have slackened off and shifted to westerly. The smooth snow surface makes it more difficult to spot the avalanche prone locations. Surface hoar above approximately 2400 m in shady terrain and the deeply embedded layer of depth hoar from January above approximately 1900 m must be judged very critically. The bonding of the uppermost snow with these layers, especially on west to north to east facing slopes, is poor.

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

Widespread fog and snowfall to begin with, which will end in the Silvretta-Allgau Alps this morning, in the Carnic Alps by this evening. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 10 degrees; at 3000 m: minus 15 degrees. Moderate westerly to northwesterly winds.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Frequent loose snow avalanches can be expected tomorrow.

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe