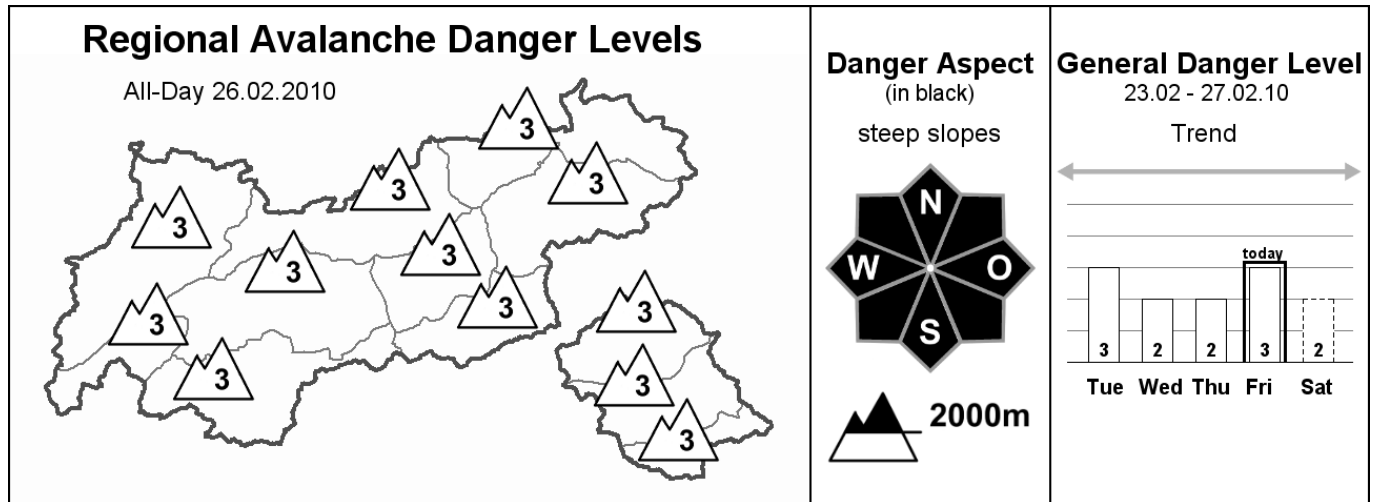


# Avalanche Bulletin

## of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Friday, 26.02.2010, at 07:30



## Snowfall and wind create unfavourable touring conditions, amidst considerable avalanche danger

### AVALANCHE DANGER

Fresh fallen snow, with rain at low altitudes, accompanied by strong winds in the heights are bringing about unfavourable touring conditions and considerable avalanche danger. Above approximately 2000 m, great caution is urged especially towards snowdrift accumulations which are poorly bonded with the old snowpack, making it possible to release an avalanche even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of a single backcountry skier or snowboarder. Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions; the frequency of such danger zones will rise over the course of the day. Below about 1800 m, the snowpack is surface-moist, particularly on sunny slopes. The rain will make it lose its firmness during the day, thus, naturally triggered moist sluffs and full depth wet snowslides can be expected.

### SNOW LAYERING

It began to snow lightly in Tyrol during the morning hours, by this evening 10 to 15 cm of snowfall is expected. The snowfall level will drop from about 1500 m to begin with to below 1000 m. At low and intermediate altitudes, the slopes have become increasingly bare over the last few days, due to intense solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle. Today the rain or wet snowfall below about 1800 m will cause the snowpack to forfeit its firmness. In high alpine regions, the weak snowpack fundament makes great caution necessary: it generally consists of faceted, unbonded snow crystals. This trigger sensitive base has slightly consolidated snowdrift layers deposited on top of it. Caution: the strong to stormy winds which will shift from southwesterly to northwesterly over the course of the day will bring about new snowdrift accumulations.

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

Weather: a low over the Atlantic has now reached England and is moving towards the North Sea. A cold front which is part of it has Tyrol in its grip and will shift the wind direction temporarily to northwesterly. Tomorrow, Saturday, an intermediate high is expected, the current will then shift rapidly back to southwesterly. Mountain weather today: from the Northern to the Southern Alps, heavy clouds with intermittent snowfall, turning to snow flurries this afternoon. By evening, 10 to 15 cm of snowfall is anticipated. All around the Ortler, bright spells are possible this afternoon. Temperature at 2000 m: minus 2 degrees, dropping to minus 5 degrees by this evening; at 3000 m: minus 9 to minus 12 degrees. Strong to storm-strength westerly to southwesterly winds at high altitudes, shifting to northwesterly this evening. Elsewhere the winds will be moderate.

### SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Avalanche danger will recede slightly on Saturday, increase again on Sunday amidst stormy foehn winds.

Rudi Mair

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe