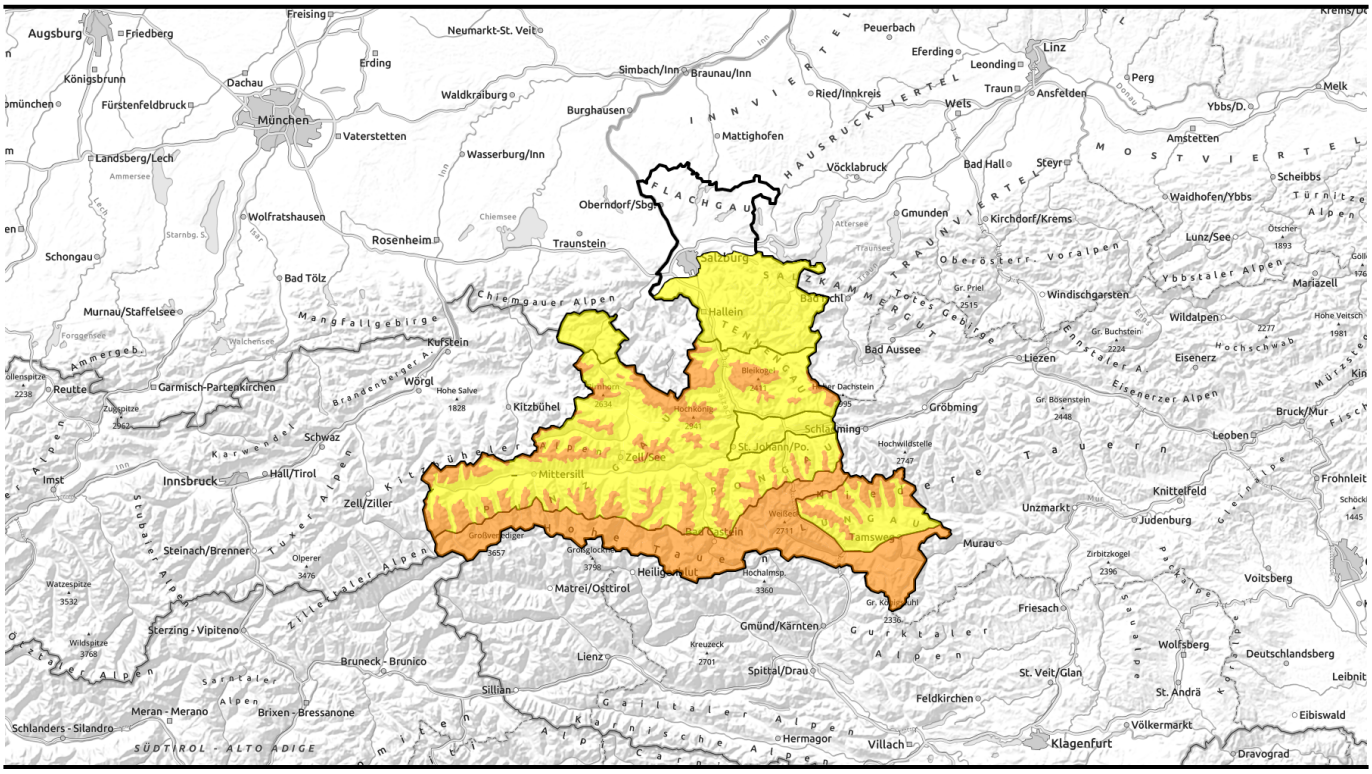
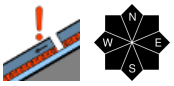
Avalanche report from 23.01.2021, 18:00 h *by Niedermoser Bernd*

24.01.2021

LAND SALZBURG



Situation demands experience. Maintain distance + choose a good path!

2	Osterhorngruppe, Gamsfeldgruppe, Untersbergstock, Chiemgauer Alpen, Heutal, Reiteralpe, Pongauer Grasberge	
3 2 forestline	Niedere Tauern Süd, Tennengebirge, Gosaukamm, Steinernes Meer, Hochkönig, Hagengebirge, Göllstock, Loferer und Leoganger Steinberge, Kitzbüheler Alpen, Glemmtal, Dientner Grasberge, Glocknergruppe Nord, Großvenedigergruppe Nord, Oberpinzgauer Grasberge, Goldberggruppe Nord, Niedere Tauern Nord	
3	Großvenedigergruppe Alpenhauptkamm, Glocknergruppe Alpenhauptkamm, Goldberggruppe Alpenhauptkamm, Niedere Tauern Alpenhauptkamm, Ankogelgruppe, Muhr, Nockberge	

Avalanche problems

Danger ratings

1	2	3	4	5
low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions

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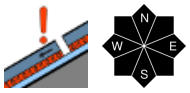
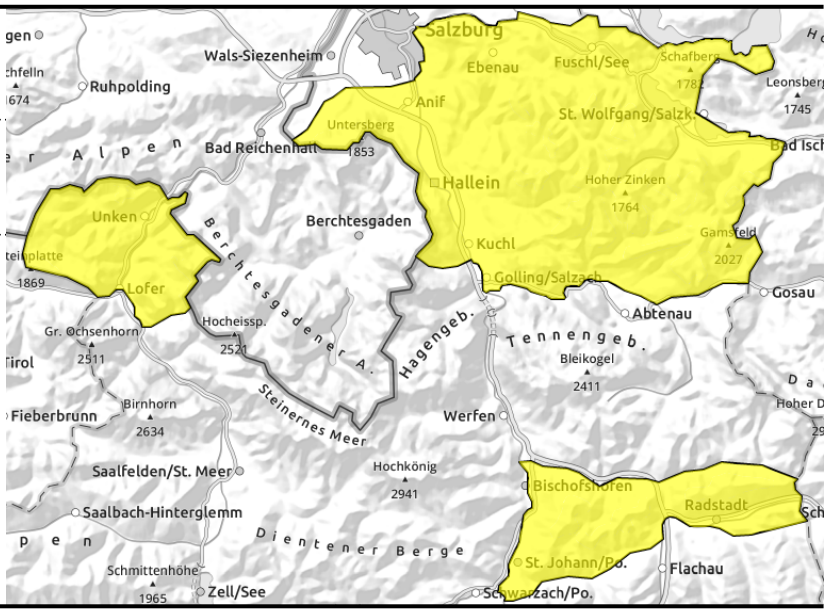
Osterhorngruppe, Gamsfeldgruppe, Untersbergstock, Chiemgauer Alpen, Heutal, Reiteralpe, Pongauer Grasberge



Above treeline, triggerable in transitions from shallow to deep snow, avoid very steep slopes



Caution: old-snow problem. Avoid very steep slopes.

The thin layer of fresh snow is not avalanche relevant. Slides and small avalanches can be unleashed in extremely steep terrain. **Relevant: concealed weak layers inside snowpack,** the old-snow problem. Here, **slab avalanches can be triggered by a single skier on very steep slopes** above the treeline. Triggering primarily by large additional loading (one person on foot, groups, falls). Potential danger zones occur increasingly in NW-NE-SE aspects, in isolated cases also in other aspects. Delicate: transitions from shallow to deeper snow and shallow-snow zones. Triggered slabs are mostly medium-sized.

Snowpack structure

The cold fresh snow from Saturday (about 10 cm) is bonding poorly with the warmer base. The snow base is highly varied: on south-facing slopes mostly melt-freeze, on north-facing slopes often with no snow beneath it. Dominating the current situation are the soft weak layers of faceted, granular crystals inside the relatively shallow snowpack. These layers were responsible for last week's instability and avalanche triggerings.

Weather

Sunday will start with overcast skies, in places with low lying cloud cover. During the morning the clouds will disperse, sun will penetrate the clouds repeatedly, a few hours of sunshine are possible. At summit level, cold westerly winds (30 km/hr). Temperature at 2000 m, -10 degrees.

Outlook

On Monday, cold snowfall with westerly winds. Avalanche danger will again increase, approaching CONSIDERABLE (snowdrifts combined with old-snow problem above the timberline).

Avalanche problems

new snow | wind drifted snow | old snow | wet snow | persistent weak layer | no problem

Danger ratings

1	2	3	4	5
low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions

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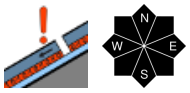
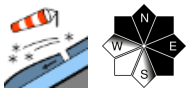
Niedere Tauern Süd, Tennengebirge, Gosaukamm, Steinernes Meer, Hochkönig, Hagengebirge, Göllstock, Loferer und Leoganger Steinberge, Kitzbüheler Alpen, Glemmtal, Dientner Grasberge, Glocknergruppe Nord, Großvenedigergruppe Nord, Oberpinzgauer Grasberge, Goldberggruppe Nord, Niedere Tauern Nord

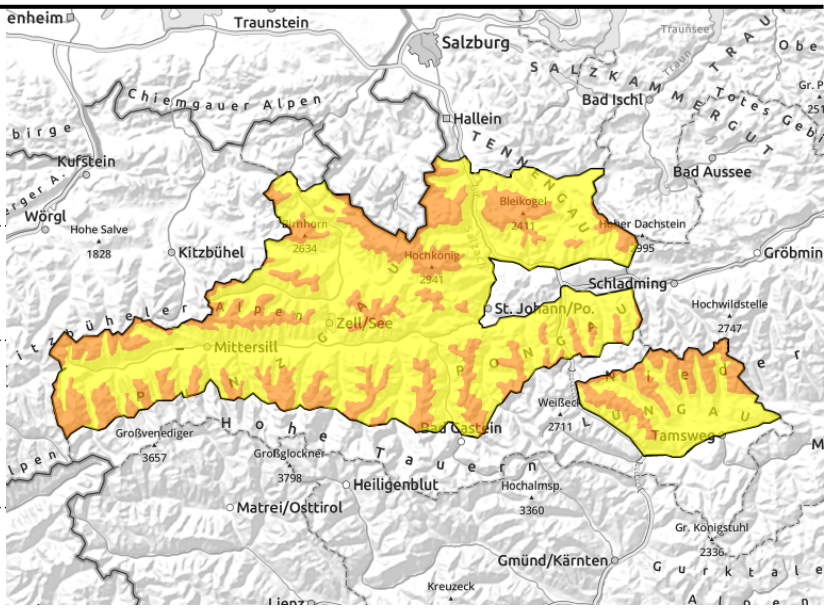
forestline



above treeline, triggerable in transltions from shallow to deep snow and in shallow-snow zones, avoid very steep slopes



ridgeline snowdrifts easily triggerable, triggered avalanches can fracture down to deeper layers



Above all, the old-snow problem demands restraint and experience

The thin layer of fresh snow is not avalanche relevant. Slides and small avalanches can be unleashed in extremely steep terrain. Even the weight of one single skier can trigger an avalanche. Potential danger zones occur increasingly in NW-NE-SE aspects, in isolated cases also in other aspects. Delicate: freshly wind-loaded steep ridgeline slopes (snowdrift problem), transitions from shallow to deeper snow and shallow-snow zones (old-snow problem). Triggered slabs are mostly medium-sized, in isolated cases large-sized.

Snowpack structure

The cold fresh snow (10-20 cm) is poorly bonded with the highly varied snow base. On south-facing slopes the base is melt-freeze up to 2000 m. In wind-exposed zones the base is hard. In ridgeline zones the fresh snow on N/E facing slopes was deposited on non-consolidated snowdrift masses. On shady north-facing slopes the snowpack still has nothing beneath it. Dominating the current situation are the soft, weak layers of facted granular snow inside the relatively shallow snowpack.

Weather

Sunday will start with overcast skies, in places with low lying cloud cover. In the morning hours the clouds will gradually disperse. Some sunshine is expected from midday into the afternoon. At higher altitudes, a cold westerly wind will be blowing (30-40 km/hr). Temperature at 2000 m; -10 degrees; at 3000 m, -16 degrees.

Outlook

On Monday, cold fresh snowfall accompanied by westerly wind. Avalanche danger will remain acute, danger level CONSIDERABLE above the treline (fresh snowdrifts combined with old-snow problem).

Avalanche problems

new snow | wind drifted snow | old snow | wet snow | persistent weak layer | no problem

Danger ratings

1	2	3	4	5
low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions

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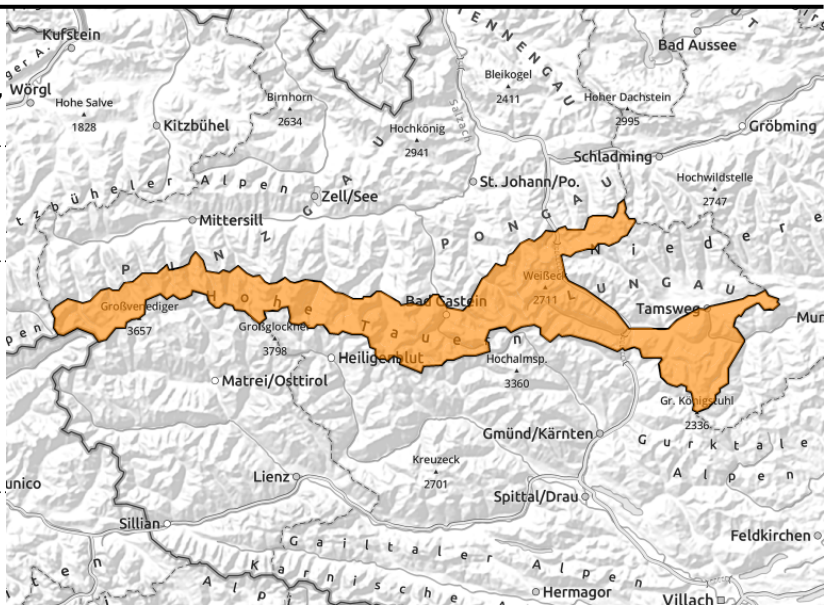

3


near to and distant from ridgelines, on north-facing slopes also near wooded zones in gullies, steep bowls, small snowdrift avalanches can fracture down to deeper layers


above treeline, triggerable in transitions from shallow to deep snow, in shallow-snow zones, avoid very steep slopes

Bad combination: snowdrift problem and beneath that, old-snow problem

Avalanche prone locations are numerous and not easy to recognize. Very steep slopes should be circumvented under all circumstances. Most of the danger zones occur in NW-N-E-SE aspects, near to and distant from ridgelines, behind protruberances (snowdrift problem). Second risk syndrome, apart from fresh drifts: the edges of shallow-snow zones, i.e. entries to windblown combs and knolls and rocky, steep terrain (old-snow problem). There, a single skier can trigger a weak layer. Small superficial avalanches can fracture down to deeper layers. Avalanches can thereby grow to medium or large size. Isolated naturally triggered avalanches cannot be ruled out on very steep and heavily wind-loaded slopes (N-E-SE).

Snowpack structure

The cold fresh snow/snowdrifts (20-30 cm) is bonding poorly with the base, now blankets a highly varied snowbase. In northern aspects, the unconsolidated foehn-induced snowdrifts lie beneath the fresh snow at forest edges and in gullies and bowls. Wind-loaded areas are found near ridgelines on east-facing slopes. Inside the snowpack - that is what is crucial - there are soft, weak layers of faceted, granular crystals in transition areas where the snow is shallow.

Weather

Sunday will start with overcast skies, in some places low-lying cloud cover. In the morning the clouds will gradually disperse. Intermittent sunshine is expected over midday and into the afternoon. At higher altitudes a cold westerly wind will be blowing (30-40 km/hr). Temperature at 2000 m, -10 degrees; at 3000 m, -16 degrees.

Outlook

On Monday, cold snowfall with westerly wind. Avalanche danger will remain acute, danger level CONSIDERABLE at least above the timberline (fresh snowdrifts combined with old-snow problem).

Avalanche problems

new snow | wind drifted snow | old snow | wet snow | persistent weak layer | no problem

Danger ratings

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low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions