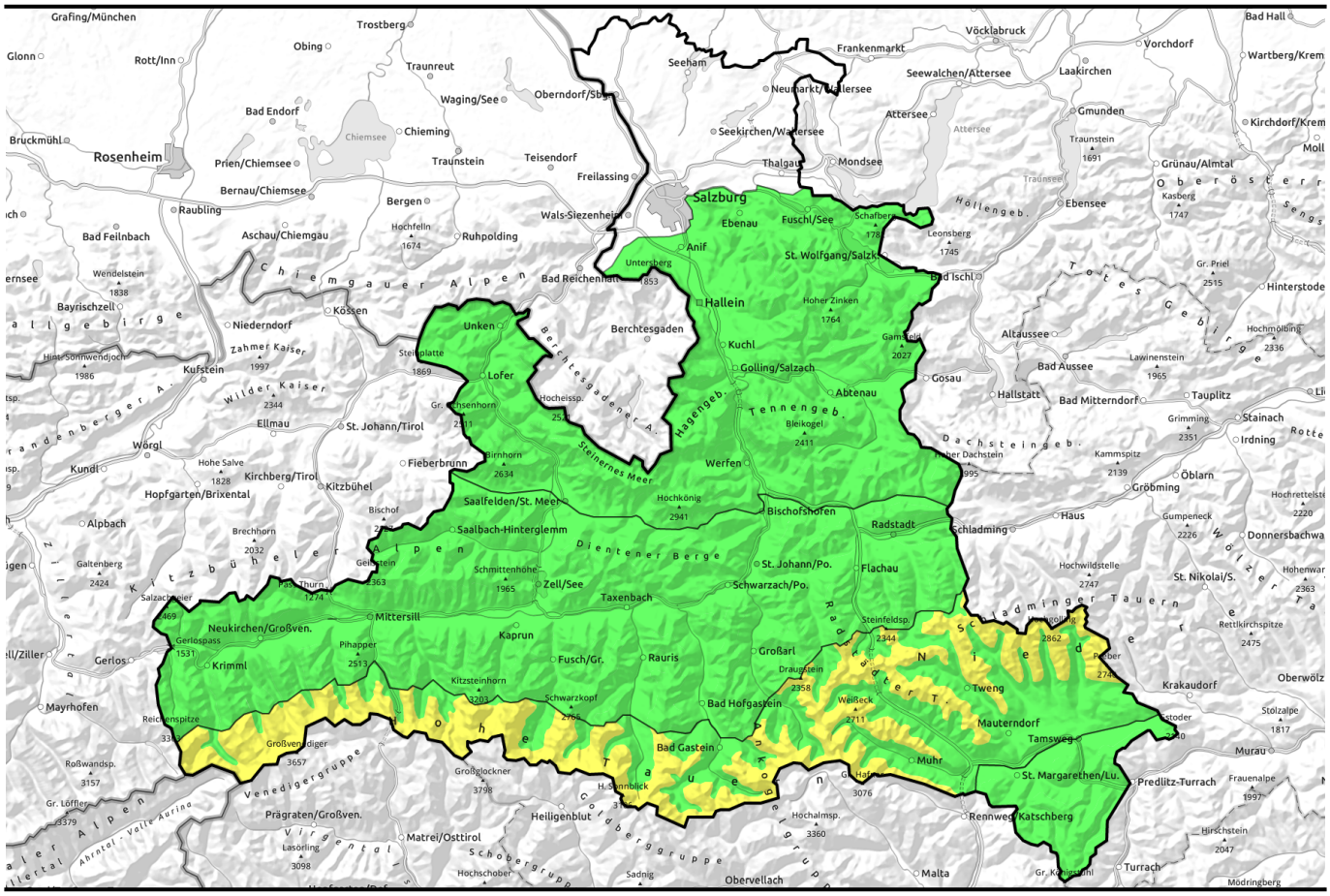
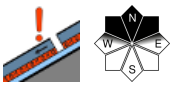
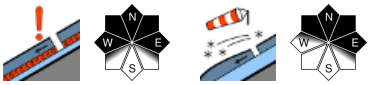
Avalanche report from 25.12.2021, 18:00 h *by Butschek Michael*

26.12.2021

LAND SALZBURG



Few danger zones, poor snow quality

1	Kitzbüheler Alpen, Glemmtal, Dientner Grasberge, Pongauer Grasberge, Niedere Tauern Nord, Goldberggruppe Nord, Glocknergruppe Nord, Großvenedigergruppe Nord, Oberpinzgauer Grasberge, Nockberge	
2 1 2300 m	Niedere Tauern Alpenhauptkamm, Niedere Tauern Süd, Ankogelgruppe, Muhr, Goldberggruppe Alpenhauptkamm, Glocknergruppe Alpenhauptkamm, Großvenedigergruppe Alpenhauptkamm	
1	Chiemgauer Alpen, Heutal, Reiteralpe, Loferer und Leoganger Steinberge, Steinernes Meer, Hochkönig, Hagengebirge, Göllstock, Tennengebirge, Gosaukamm, Osterhorngruppe, Gamsfeldgruppe, Untersbergstock	

Avalanche problems

New snow | Wind drifted snow | Persistent weak layer | Wet snow | Gliding snow | No problem

Danger ratings

1	2	3	4	5
low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions

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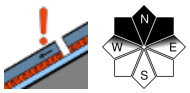
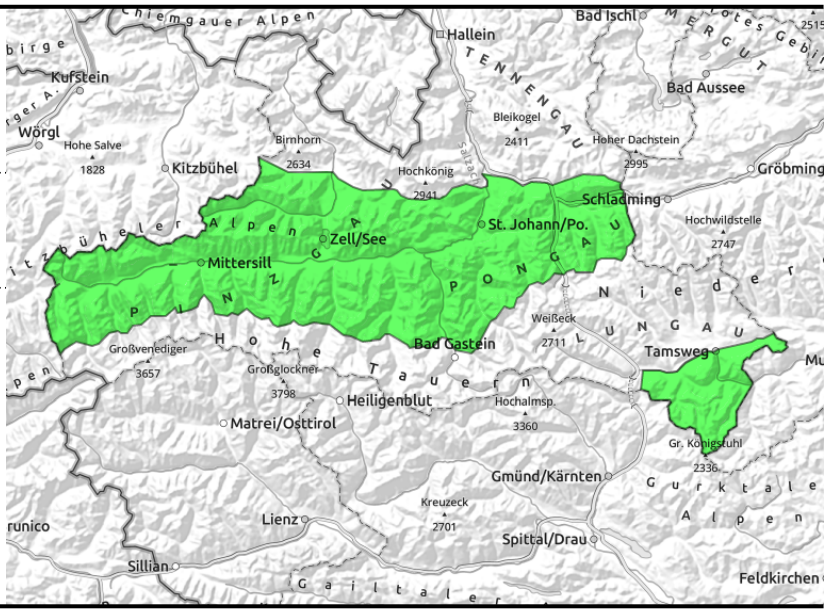
Kitzbüheler Alpen, Glemmtal, Dientner Grasberge, Pongauer Grasberge, Niedere Tauern Nord, Goldberggruppe Nord, Glocknergruppe Nord, Großvenedigergruppe Nord, Oberpinzgauer Grasberge, Nockberge



few danger zones, very steep, shallow-snow north-facing slopes, treacherous: transitions from shallow to deeper snow



Very few danger zones, weak layer in old snow

Avalanche danger is low. There are very few potential avalanche prone locations where large additional loading can invariably trigger a slab from the persistent weak layer, most likely on extremely steep slopes with relatively shallow-snow above about 2200 m in E/N aspects. Shallow-snow and extremely steep slopes near ridgelines should be assessed critically or, even better, circumvented. The danger of taking a fall on steel-hard surface outweighs the danger of triggering an avalanche.

Snowpack structure

Strong, sometimes storm-strength W/S winds, mild temperatures, minimal new snow at high altitudes (or rain below 1700 m) have further deteriorated snow quality. Melt-freeze crusts on the surface (hard as steel, icy, breakable, snowdrift patches) dominate, crests and ridges are utterly windblown. Beneath the crusts is a soft layer.
A potential trigger-sensitive layer of faceted and soft snow crystals is evident starting at 2000/2200m on E/N facing slopes. This weak layer is currently not triggerable or else too small and not area-wide.

Weather

On **Sunday**, visibiliity is generally adequate, although light conditions are rather diffuse due to cloudbanks passing through. Winds mostly light. At 2000 m: -1 degree: at 3000 m: -8 degrees.
On **Monday**, the day will begin with sunshine. Later in the day, thin clouds far above the summits will pass through. At 2000 m: -2 degrees; at 3000 m: -7 degrees.

Outlook

No significant change is expected.

Avalanche problems

Danger ratings

Expositions

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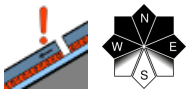
26.12.2021

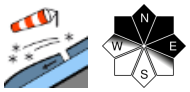
LAND SALZBURG

Niedere Tauern Alpenhauptkamm, Niedere Tauern Süd, Ankogelgruppe, Muhr, Goldberggruppe Alpenhauptkamm, Glocknergruppe Alpenhauptkamm, Großvenedigergruppe Alpenhauptkamm

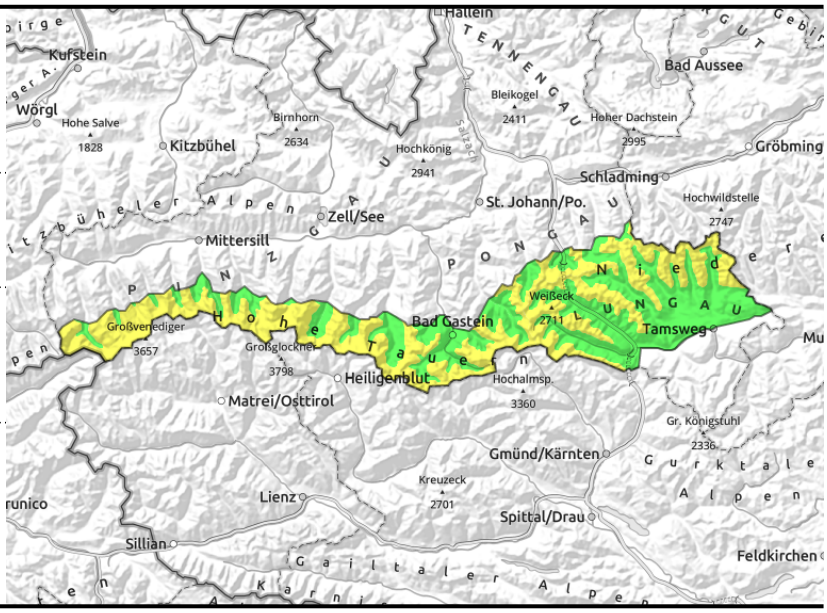
2300 m



steep, shallow-snow in extended northern aspects above 2300 m



thin, small snowdrift patches



Caution in northern aspects in high alpine regions

Main problem: trigger-sensitive intermediate layers at ground-level in the old snow. Isolated slab avalanches can be triggered on shady steep slopes be large additional loading, particularly where the snow is shallow, i.e. at entries to gullies and bowls, particularly in places where there is relatively shallow snow compared to the immediate vicinity, i.e. at entries to gullies and bowls. Triggered avalanches can be of small-to-medium size. The freshly generated snowdrift patches are easily triggered and create a major risk of forcing a fall.

Snowpack structure

Melt-freeze encrusted surfaces (hard as steel, icy, breakable, snowdrift patches, melt-freeze from the rain) dominate, recent mild temperatures and often storm-strength W/S winds have worsened snow quality. Inside the snowpack the recent layers are relatively well bonded. A potential trigger-sensitive layer of faceted and soft snow is at high altitudes. Current stability tests show that the tendency towards fracture propagation is minimal, at least over surface-wide areas.

Weather

On **Sunday**, visibiliity is generally adequate, although light conditions are rather diffuse due to cloudbanks passing through. Winds moderately strong from the south. At 2000 m: -1 degree: at 3000 m: -8 degrees.
On **Monday**, the day will begin with sunshine. Later in the day, thin clouds far above the summits will pass through. Southerly foehn wind will be blowing at 30-50 km/hr. At 2000 m: -2 degrees; at 3000 m: -7 degrees.

Outlook

The rising foehn wind will generate only small snowdrift accumulations, not changing the situation much.

Avalanche problems

New snow | Wind drifted snow | Persistent weak layer | Wet snow | Gliding snow | No problem

Danger ratings

1	2	3	4	5
low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions

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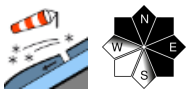
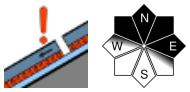
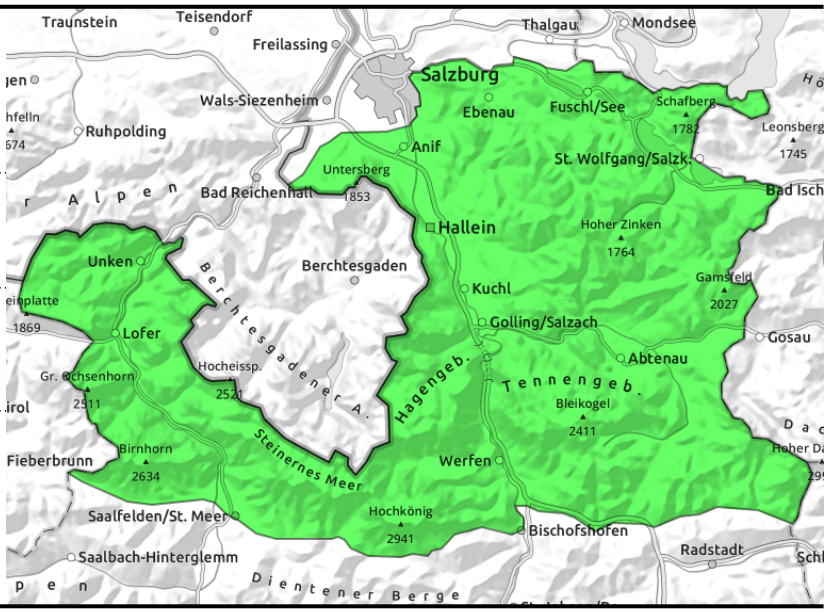
Chiemgauer Alpen, Heutal, Reiteralpe, Loferer und Leoganger Steinberge, Steinernes Meer, Hochkönig, Hagengebirge, Göllstock, Tennengebirge, Gosaukamm, Osterhorngruppe, Gamsfeldgruppe, Untersbergstock



thin, small snowdrift accumulations



triggerable only in a few spots above 2200 m



Fresh, small snowdrift patches at high altitude

Avalanche danger is low. Small avalanche prone locations exist in steep wind-loaded terrain, esp. on NW-SE facing slopes above 1800 m. The easily recognized snowdrift patches are prone to triggering and create a major risk of forcing a fall. Aside from that, there are few danger zones, most likely on extremely steep and shallow-snow slopes above 2200 m in eastern and northern aspecdts. Shallow-snow and extremely steep slopes, especially near ridgelines, should be assessed critically on-site, or even better, circumvented.

Snowpack structure

Above 1800-2000 m: 5-10 cm of new snow, in some places transported by brisk westerly winds. Bonding of the small, thin drifts to the frequently hardened, encrusted layers often on smooth ground becomes less favourable with ascending altitude. Beneath the melt-freeze crusts is a soft, faceted layer. At lower altitudes the snowpack is moist-to-wet and has at most a thin crust on the surface.

Weather

On **Sunday** morning visibility at high altitudes will be impaired by fog, but without much precipitation. Elsewhere visibility is generally adequate, although light conditions will be diffuse. Winds generally light. At 2000 m: -1 degree; at 3000 m: -8 degrees.
On **Monday**, low lying residual clouds will disperse on the northern rim of the Alps, visibility will improve and the sun come out. Winds will be generally light from the south-to-east. At 2000m: -2 degrees; at 3000 m: -7 degrees.

Outlook

No significant change is anticipated.

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

Avalanche problems

Danger ratings

Expositions