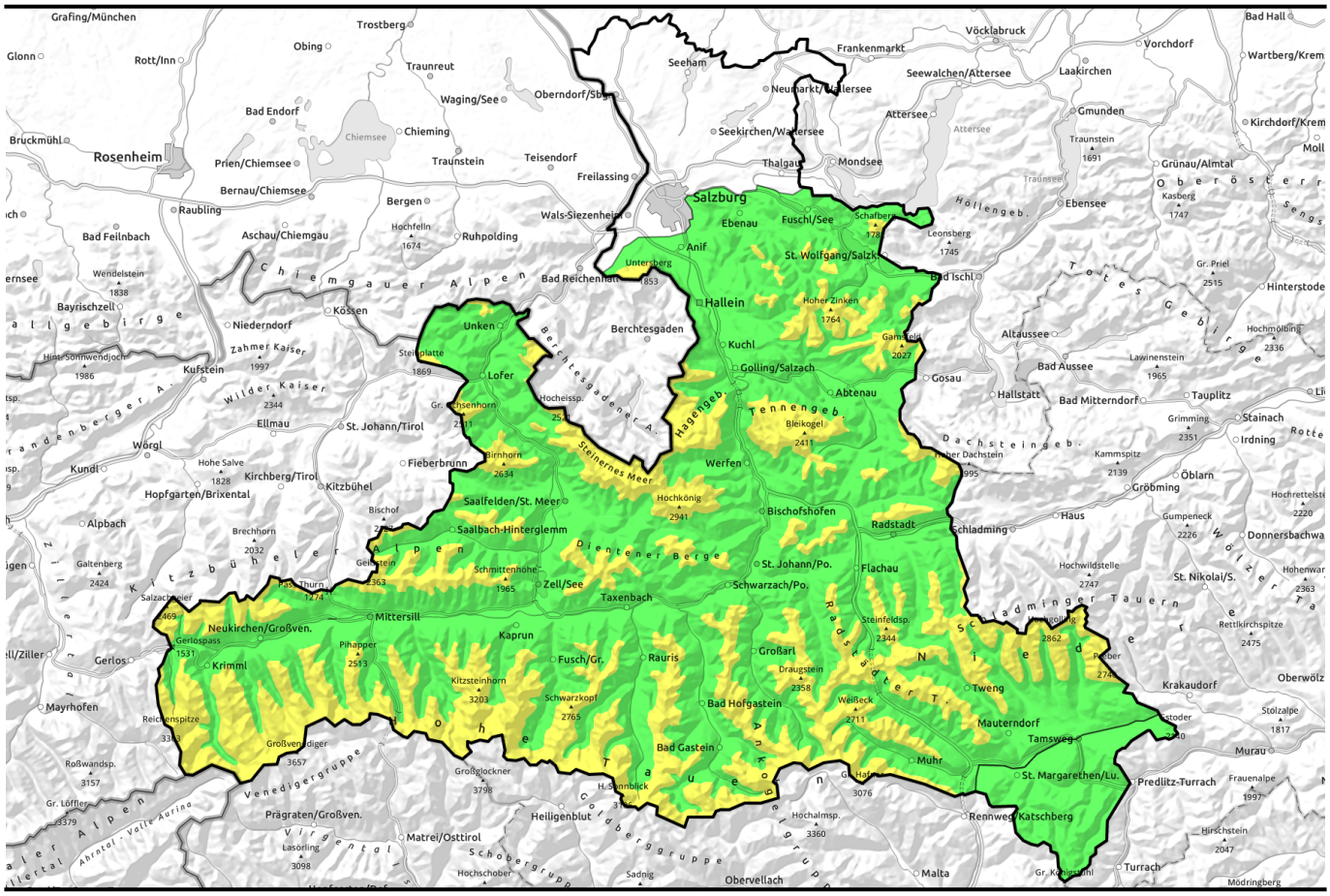
Avalanche report from 20.01.2022, 18:00 h *by Butschek Michael*

21.01.2022

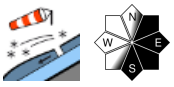
LAND SALZBURG



Fresh snow, wind, poor visibility

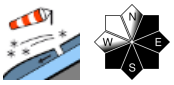
2
1
forestline

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



1

Nockberge



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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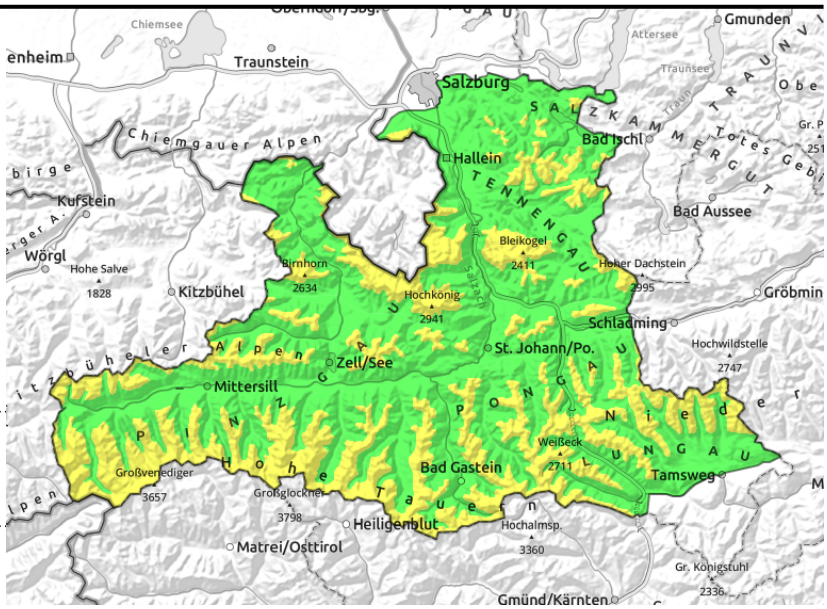
LAND SALZBURG

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



forestline

distant from ridgelines, at forest rims, in gullies and bowls, often atop unfavorable base, trigger-sensitive

Poor visibility, trigger-sensitive snow

Avalanche danger above the treeline is MODERATE, below that altitude danger is low. Avalanche prone locations due to freshly generated snowdrift accumulations are located in steep wind-loaded terrain (gullies, steep bowls, forest clearances, etc.) and in general behind steep protruberances in NE/E/S aspects to an increasing degree. The drifts are prone to triggering. In many spots even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger a small (in some places a medium-sized) slab avalanche. Steep wind-loaded zones should be AVOIDED. Poor visibility makes assessment even more difficult.

Snowpack structure

There has been 10-15 cm of fresh snow widespread, up to 30 cm at high altitudes in the Hohe Tauern, Steinbergen and Hochkönig to Gosaukamm. The snow is riddled with graupel, and being transported by stormy NW winds to gullies, bowls and E/S facing slopes. The base bears striking marks of wind (wind crusts, pressed powder), and in shady terrain also has faceted old crystals and, in some places, surface hoar. In the old snow, faceted crystals weaken the structuring, particularly on W/N/E facing slopes. A potential fracture point for slabs, apart from the faceted crystals: the blanketed loose new snow.

Weather

On **Friday**, poor visibility due to heavy cloud cover from which intermittent snowfall is possible in the Northern Alps, though only minor amounts are anticipated. In the Tauern there will hardly be any new snow. Winds will be strong to stormy from the northwest, strongest on the Main Tauern Ridge (70-100 km/hr). At 2000 m: -14 degrees; at 3000 m: -20 degrees.
On **Saturday**, strong and persistent snowfall as the result of a warm front coming from the north. Stormy NW winds will bring 20-40 cm of fresh snow, from Steinernes Meer to Gosaukamm and in the Hohe Tauern also 40-60 cm of fresh snow. Temperatures will rise: ata 2000 m: -8 degrees; at 3000 m: -13 degrees.

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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Outlook

On Saturday the avalanche situation will reach its climax. On the northern flank of the Alps, CONSIDERABLE danger will prevail widespread, also naturally triggered avalancahes which can develop a hefty snow cloud are possible.

Avalanche problems

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

Danger ratings

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low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions

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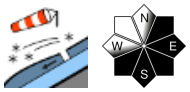
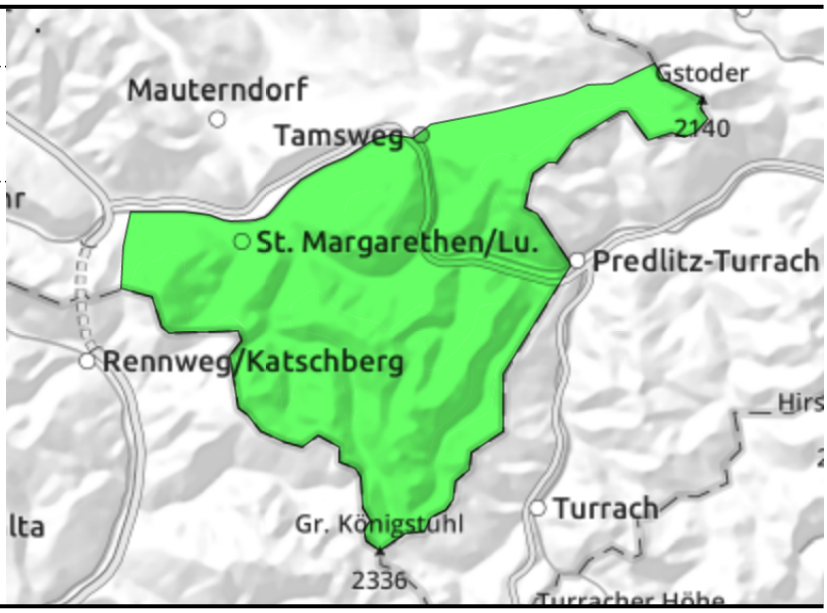
Nockberge



isolated danger zones distant from ridgelines, behind protruberances, at forest rims, in gullies and steep bowls, triggerable in transition from shallow to deep snow



Isolated avalanche prone locations, poor visibility

Avalanche danger is LOW. Isolated danger zones are located in wind-loaded steep zones (gullies, steep bowls, forest clearances, etc.) and in general near ridgelines in NE/E/SW aspects. The fresh drifts are prone to triggering. In some places a small-to-medium slab avalanche can be triggered even by minimum additional loading.

Snowpack structure

Older and fresher snowdrift accumulations now blanket faceted layers of old snow and, in some places, surface hoar on shady slopes, i.e. potential fracture spots. Otherwise many hardened crusts. West-facing slopes have hardly any snow, esposed terrain is utterly windblown. The old snowpack is stable and has little tendency towards fracture propagation, except in isolated cases by large additional loading at a soft faceted layer beneath the melt-freez / rain crust which formed at the New Year.

Weather

On **Friday**, poor visibility due to heavy cloud cover from which intermittent snowfall is possible. Winds will be strong to stormy from the northwest, and temperatures will drop. At 2000 m: -13 degrees.
On **Saturday**, light to moderate snowfall as the result of a warm front coming from the north (5-10 cm of fresh snow possible). Temperatures will rise: at 2000 m: -8 degrees.

Outlook

On Saturday, rising avalanche danger (to MODERATE) due to snowfall amid wind impact.

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

Avalanche problems

Danger ratings

Expositions