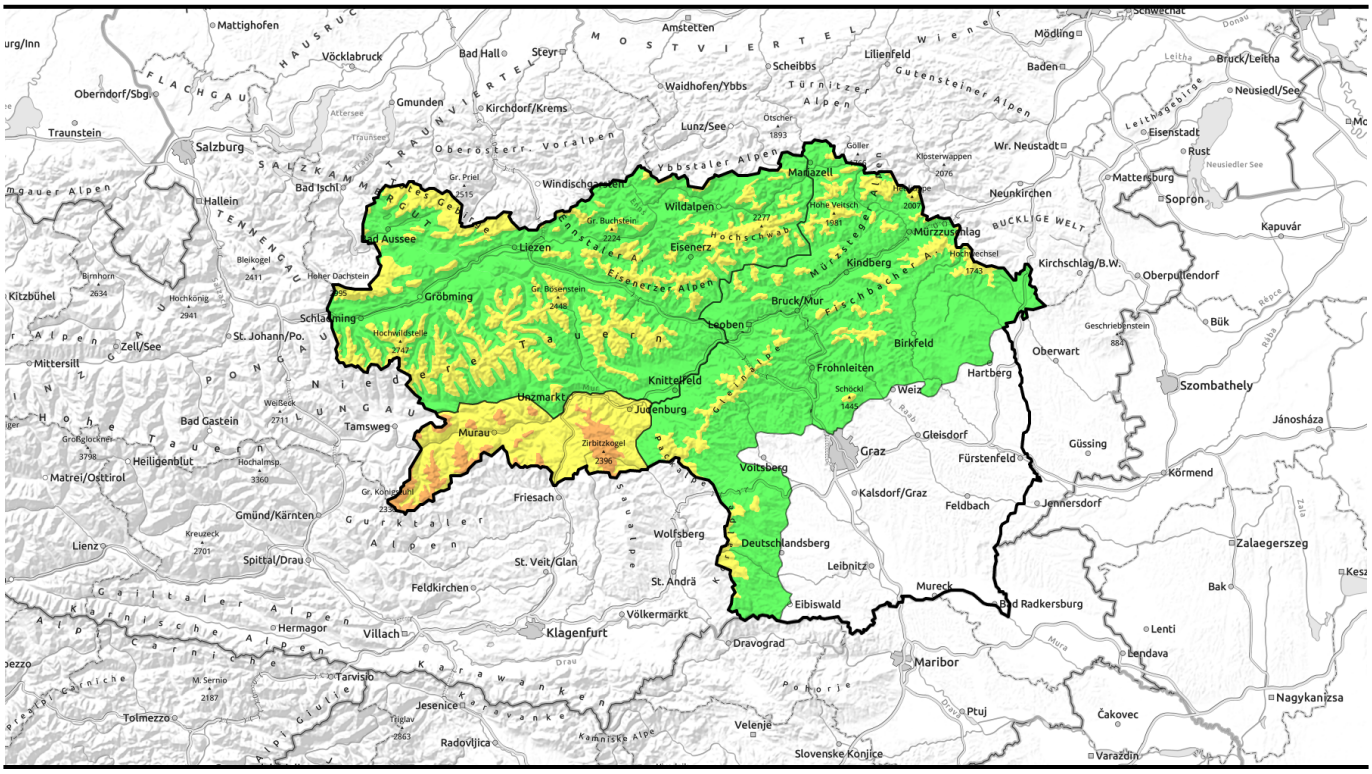
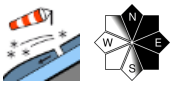
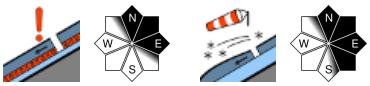
Avalanche report from 09.02.2021, 18:00 h *by Podesser Alexander*

10.02.2021

Das Land Steiermark



Ongoing old-snow problem on shady slopes. Fresh drifts at high altitudes. Plummeting temperatures on Thursday.

2 / 1 timberline	Hochschwabgebiet, Ennstaler Alpen, Totes Gebirge, Dachsteingebiet, Schladminger Tauern, Nördliche Wölzer Tauern, Rottenmanner Tauern, Eisenerzer Alpen, Südliche Wölzer Tauern, Seckauer Tauern	
2 / 1 timberline	Mürzsteger Alpen, Mürztaler Alpen, Östliche Fischbacher Alpen und Wechselgebiet, Westliche Fischbacher Alpen und Grazer Bergland, Stub- und Gleinalpe, Koralpe	
3 / 2 timberline	Gurktaler Alpen, Seetaler Alpen	

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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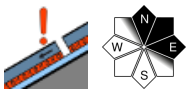
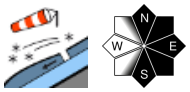
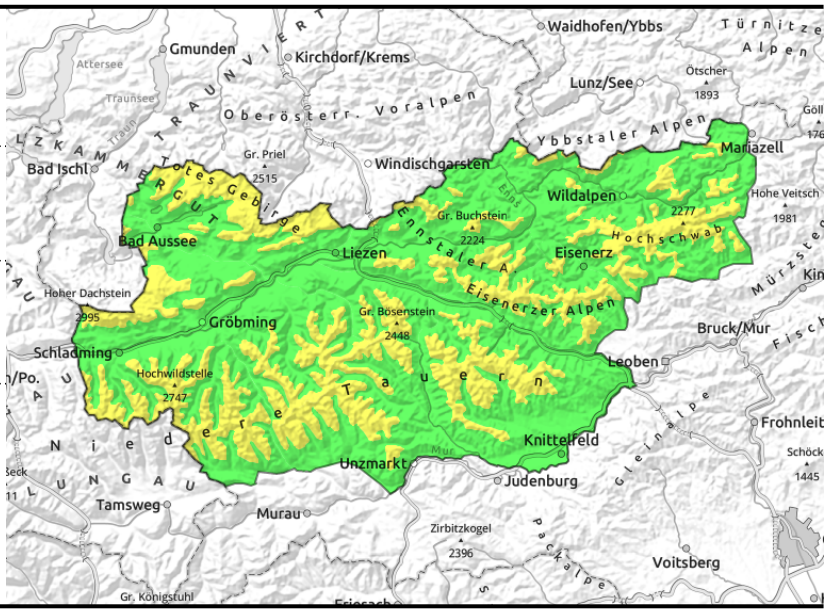
Hochschwabgebiet, Ennstaler Alpen, Totes Gebirge, Dachsteingebiet, Schladminger Tauern, Nördliche Wölzer Tauern, Rottenmanner Tauern, Eisenerzer Alpen, Südliche Wölzer Tauern, Seckauer Tauern

timberline







Old-snow problem on shady slopes plus fresh drifts on N/E slopes

Above the forested zones, moderate avalanche danger prevails. Snowdrifts in all aspects due to shifting wind directions plus the old-snow problem on shady slopes in more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack are the main problems at high altitudes. On exposed, icy ridges and extremely steep slopes with hardened surfaces, the danger of being force to take a fall requires special caution.

Snowpack structure

Up to 20 cm of fresh snow has been registered at high altitudes since Monday. Fresh snow initially fell amid light winds, later winds intensified (W/NW) and transported snow blanketed older drifts which are poorly bonded with the snowpack surface. As winds shifted to SW on Tuesday afternoon, leeward slopes received newly generated snowdrifts; as the wind shift again on Wednesday afternoon, plus some fresh snow. more drifts will be generated, mostly on south-facing slopes. On shady slopes, depth hoar is weakening the snowpack fundament. The snowpack softened even at high altitudes last weekend, it is now hardened with melt-freeze crusts.

Weather

On Wednesday, heavy cloud along the Niedere Tauern, brisk SW winds in the Northern Alps, possibly dispersed clouds due to foehn. In the afternoon, winds will intensify, shift to NW and light-to-moderate snowfall will set in. Temperatures at midday: at 2000 m, -3 degrees; at 1500 m, 0 degrees. In the evening: -9 degrees and -6 degrees.

Outlook

Arctic air masses are headed our way. Temperatures will plummet to -19 degrees at 2000 m, plus stormy northerly winds on Thursday will generate fresh, highly brittle snowdrift accumulations. Other aspects will be windblown. Melt-freeze crusts on summits and plateaus will be laid bare.

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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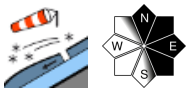
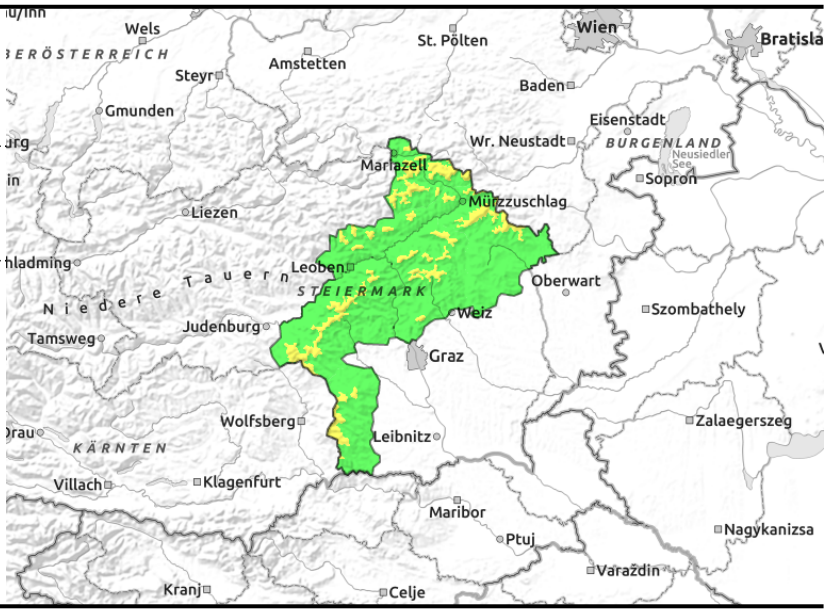
10.02.2021

Das Land Steiermark

Mürzsteger Alpen, Mürztaler Alpen, Östliche Fischbacher Alpen und Wechselgebiet, Westliche Fischbacher Alpen und Grazer Bergland, Stub- und Gleinalpe, Koralpe

timberline





Hardened old-snowpack surface covered with fresh drifts at high altitudes

Along the Styrian rimline ranges and in Mürztal and Mürzsteg Alps, low danger prevails; above the treeline, moderate avalanche danger. Caution urged towards steep entry paths, where the snowdrifts are most likely to trigger. On exposed, icy ridges and in extremely steep terrain with hardened surfaces, danger of being forced to take a fall

Snowpack structure

The fresh snow from Monday was deposited on a hardened, compact old-snowpack surface at high altitudes; at intermediate altitudes atop a moist or thoroughly wet snowpack. The NW winds and dropping temperatures have created a melt-freeze crust or ice. More fresh snow will follow on Wednesday and be transported by SW winds to N/E facing slopes. Snowpack layers of varying hardness will be formed, wide-ranging weak layers are not expected.

Weather

In the Seetal Alps and along the Styrian rimline ranges, heavy cloud cover will dominate on Wednesday. Occasional light snowfall, intensifying in the latter part of the day and during the night. Moderate-strength SW winds, moderate temperatures: at midday at 2000 m, -3 degrees; at 1500 m, -1 degree.

Outlook

On Wednesday night, arctic air masses will arrive along with storm-strength NW winds. Temperatures will plummet: between 1500 and 2000 m to -14 degrees by afternoon. The brittle snowdrifts will be poorly bonded on south-facing slopes, deposited atop melt-freeze encrusted old snow. Other aspects will be windblown. The melt-freeze crusts and ridges will be blown bare of snow.

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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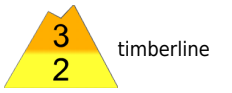
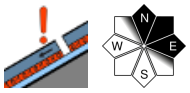
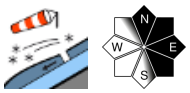
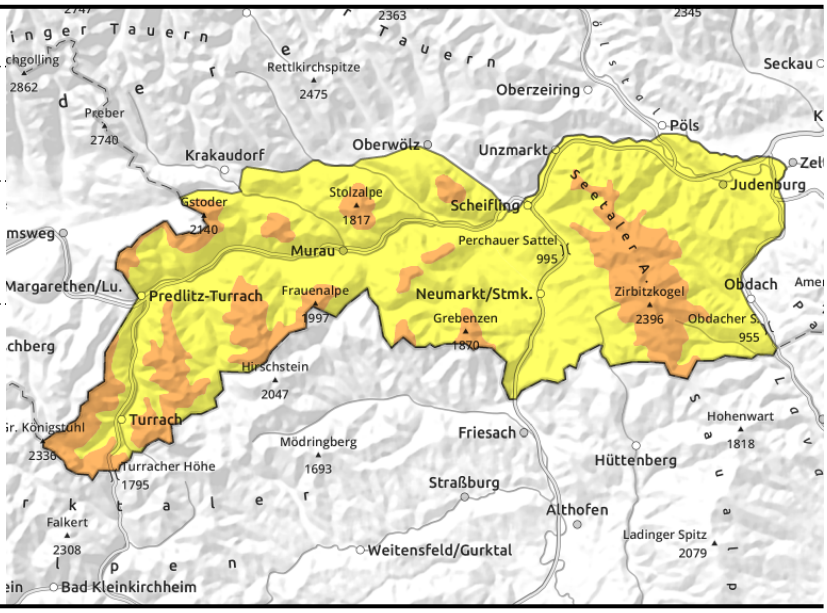
Gurktaler Alpen, Seetaler Alpen



timberline







Considerable avalanche danger due to fresh snowdrifts and old-snow problem at high altitude

At high altitudes, avalanche danger is considerable. Main problem: poor bonding of old snow on shady slopes. Avalanche prone locations are found on N/E facing slopes. Fresh drifts will be generated on Wednesday, particularly on N/E facing slopes.

Snowpack structure

Up to 30 cm of fresh snow has been registered since Monday, also in the form of rain up to high altitude. Lots of snowdrift accumulations and melt-freeze crusts were deposited in varying aspects atop a hardened old-snowpack surface. The SW winds on Wednesday will generate further snowdrift accumulateions. On north-facing slopes, older snowdrifts are poorly bonded with the soft, faceted layers of the old snowpack (old-snow problem).

Weather

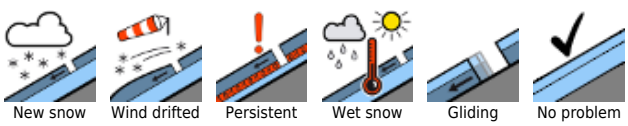
Along Gurktal and Seetal Alps, cloud cover will dominate on Wednesday, the higher peaks will often be veiled in fog. Repeated bouts of snowfall are anticipated, intensifying in the afternoon. Strong-to-moderate SW winds. Tamperature at midday at 2000 m: -3 degrees; at 1500 m: -1 degree.

Outlook

On Thursday, extremely cold, dry Arctic air masses will arrive also on the southern flank of the Alps. The strong northerly winds will disperse the cloud. At 2000 m, temperatures will drop to -13 degrees at midday, by evening to -17 degrees. Fresh, brittle snowdrifts will be generated, especially on south-facing slopes, in other aspects the surface will be windblown. On summits and ridges, the ice-crust will be blown bare of snow.

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

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