

## Fresh snow + gale winds on northern flank of the Alps: considerable danger

	<p>forestline</p>	<p>Totes Gebirge, Dachsteingebiet, Schladminger Tauern Nord, Nördliche Wölzer Tauern, Rottenmanner Tauern, Ennstaler Alpen, Eisenerzer Alpen, Hochschwabgebiet, Murzsteger Alpen</p>				
	<p>forestline</p>	<p>Südliche Wölzer Tauern, Seckauer Tauern, Gurktaler Alpen, Seetaler Alpen</p>				
	<p>forestline</p>	<p>Koralpe, Stub- und Gleinalpe, Östliche Fischbacher Alpen und Wechselgebiet, Westliche Fischbacher Alpen und Grazer Bergland, Murztaler Alpen</p>				
	<p>forestline</p>	<p>Schladminger Tauern Süd</p>				

**Avalanche problems**



**Danger ratings**



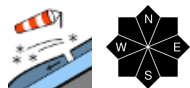
**Expositions**



**Totes Gebirge, Dachsteingebiet, Schladminger Tauern Nord, Nördliche Wölzer Tauern, Rottenmanner Tauern, Ennstaler Alpen, Eisenerzer Alpen, Hochschwabgebiet, Mürzsteger Alpen**



forestline



## Extremely unfavorable conditions: fresh snow plus storm, snowdrifts in all aspects

The spread of the avalanche prone locations quickly increases with ascending altitude, trigger-sensitive snowdrifts can be found in all aspects, particularly in terrain distant from ridgelines down to below the treeline. Special caution urged towards wind-loaded forest lanes. In addition, poor visibility make assessing the dangers on-site and general orientation in the landscape more difficult.

### Snowpack structure

The old snowpack fundament is melt-freeze encrusted and covered with surface hoar both in leeward terrain and in low-lying shady slopes. Atop these surfaces the forecast fresh snow will be deposited, then be permanently transported by winds to form brittle snowdrift accumulations. Atop summits, crests and plateaus the old snow will be windblown, the fresh drifts can extend down to below the treeline.

### Weather

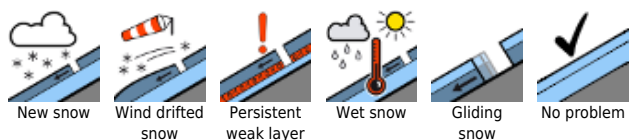
This evening a cold front will reach Styria. In Northern Alps from Dachstein to Hochschwab, snowfall amid low lying clouds overnight and on Friday all day long, tapering off in the afternoon. Up to 40 cm of fresh snow can be expected in the mountains. Somewhat less in secondary northern barrier cloud zones of Niedere Tauern and further snow (only short snow showers), since the northerly foehn wind will disperse the clouds somewhat. Winds from northwest will reach gale strength in high alpine regions. Temperatures will drop measurably. At midday at 2000 m: -10 degrees; at 1500 m: -6 degrees.

### Outlook

Also on Saturday on the northern flank of the Alps, cloud and stormy winds. A warm front will bring minor precipitation, the snowfall level will ascend to above 1000 m. The south will have better conditions, being on the lee side of the weather front.

The avalanche situation is not expected to change significantly.

#### Avalanche problems



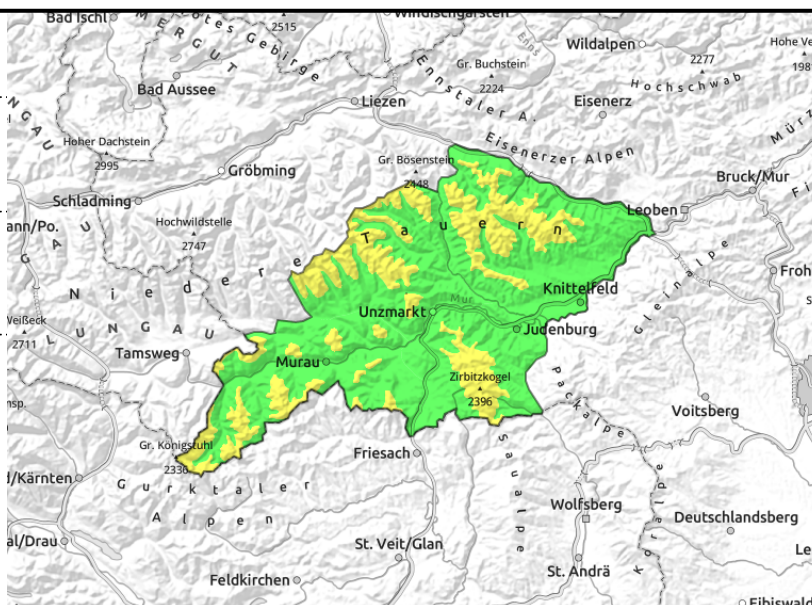
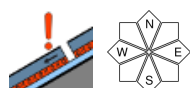
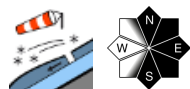
#### Danger ratings



#### Expositions



**Südliche Wölzer Tauern, Seckauer Tauern, Gurktaler Alpen, Seetaler Alpen**



**Older and fresh snowdrifts, varying winds, danger zones increasing with nearness to Main Tauern Ridge**

The focus of avalanche danger lies in the regions where fresh snow will be heaviest in northern Upper Styria. But the fresh drifts on the southern flank of the Alps should not be neglected which generated last week amid strong NW winds as of Tuesday and SW winds on Thursday. Also on Friday, stormy NW winds can generate further snowdrift accumulations, particularly in E/S aspects. Danger above the treeline is moderate, though even minimum additional loading is sufficient to trigger the shallow snowdrift patches. Transitions from deep to shallow snow require special caution.

**Snowpack structure**

Already last weekend the snowdrifts were being deposited onto hardened, sometimes surface-hoar encrusted surfaces. Since Tuesday the NW winds have intensified and on Friday will intensify further. The old snowpack beneath the drifts was able to settle, but on steep high-altitude shady slopes the snowpack is riddled with faceted corn snow forms and melt-freeze crusts, thus is weakened; and in lee terrain is covered with surface hoar. Elsewhere the snowpack is wind-pressed or else hard and icy.

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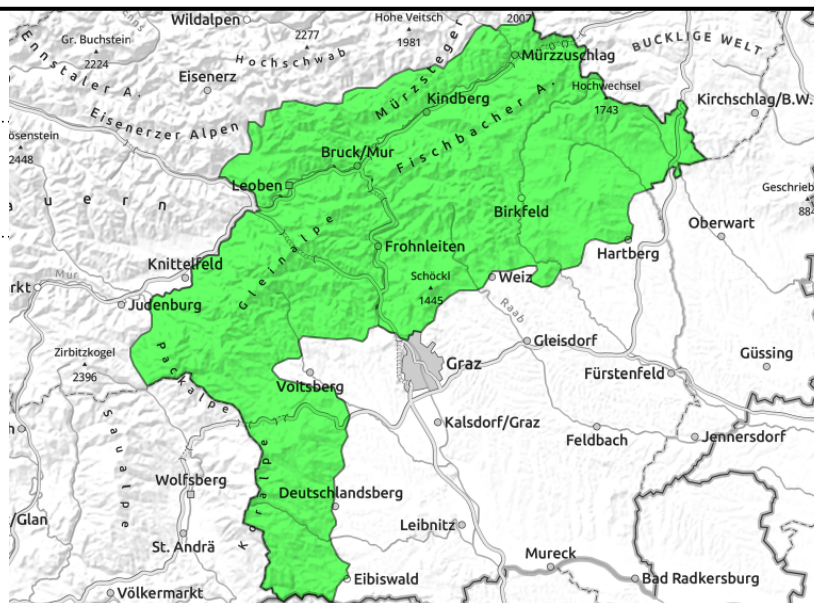
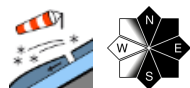
**Danger ratings**



**Expositions**



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



**Fresh snowdrift patches will be generated by stormy winds**

From Koralpe to Wechsel region, low avalanche danger prevails. Nevertheless at high altitudes those zones deserve high attentiveness which have had fresh snow and newly generated snowdrifts over the last week. The snowdrift patches can trigger a small slab avalanche in isolated cases.

**Snowpack structure**

Between Koralpe and Wechsel region the snowfall until now has been minor. Some new snow was registered last week in the Fischbacher and Mürztaler Alps, and the Gleinalpe. Due to permanently strong winds, plateaus were windblown and some snowdrift patches were generated which now cover softer layers or surface hoar. The snowpack is currently melt-freeze encrusted and hard.

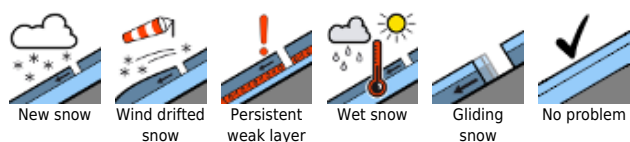
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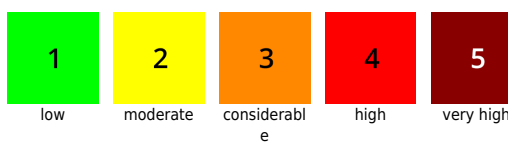
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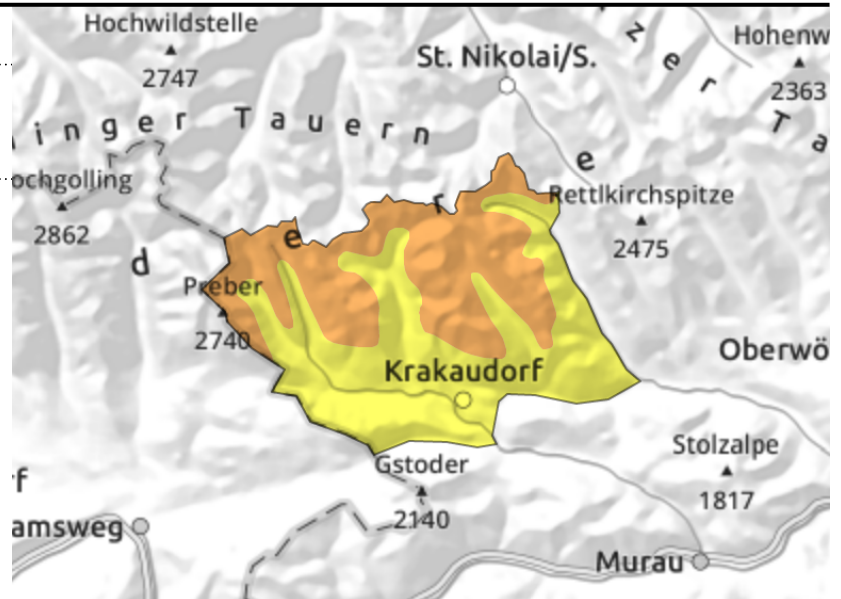
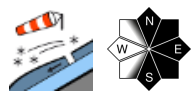


**Expositions**



**28.01.2022**

**Schladminger Tauern Süd**



**Extremely unfavorable backcountry touring conditions: fresh snow, storm winds, drifts in all aspects**

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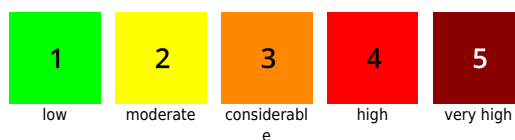
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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, [www.creativtrans.com](http://www.creativtrans.com)

**Avalanche problems**



**Danger ratings**



**Expositions**

