

Fresh snow + stormy winds in northern barrier cloud regions. Increasing danger of slab avalanches.



forestline

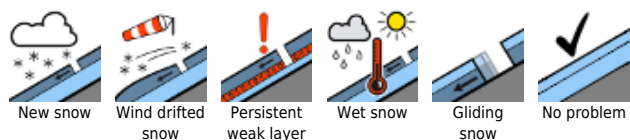
Schladminger Tauern Nord, Nördliche Wölzer Tauern, Rottenmann Tauern, Ennstaler Alpen, Schladminger Tauern Süd, Südliche Wölzer Tauern, Seckauer Tauern, Eisenerzer Alpen, Hochschwabgebiet, Mürztegger Alpen, Dachsteingebiet, Totes Gebirge



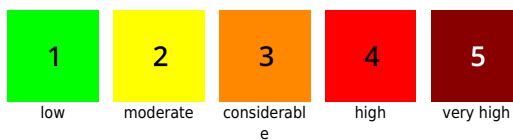
Gurktaler Alpen, Seetaler Alpen, Stub- und Gleinalpe, Westliche Fischbacher Alpen und Grazer Bergland, Östliche Fischbacher Alpen und Wechselgebiet, Mürztaler Alpen, Koralpe



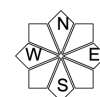
Avalanche problems



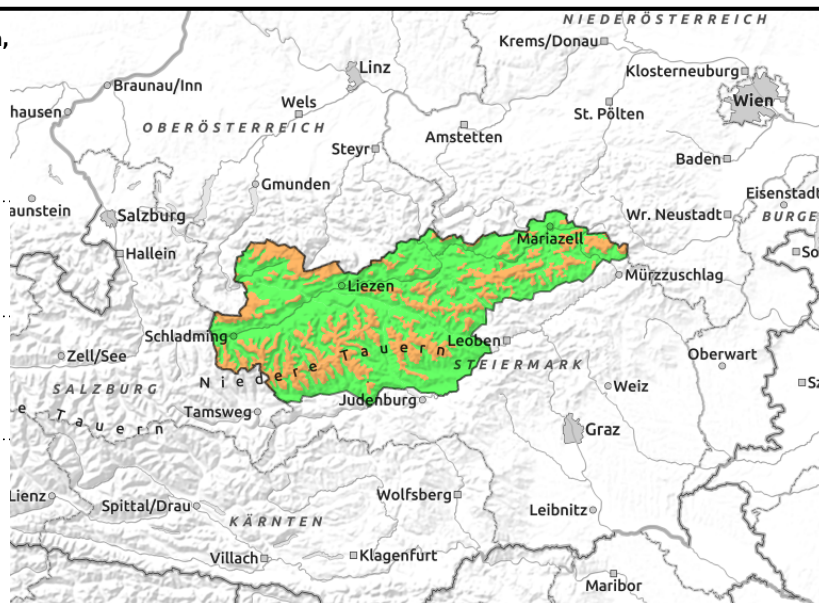
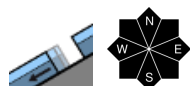
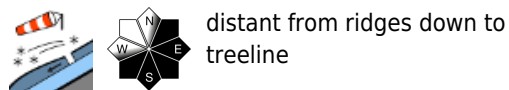
Danger ratings



Expositions



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



Fresh snowdrifts above treeline require caution. Avoid slopes below glide cracks.

With ascending altitude, swift increase in avalanche prone locations and danger level from LOW to CONSIDERABLE. Main wind-loaded zones of fresh drifts are on east and south-facing slopes, cannot be ruled out in other aspects. Even minimum additional loading can trigger a slab avalanche.

On all steep slopes where the ground is smooth, in addition, increased glide-snow avalanche activity will be observed, particularly on sunny slopes. On shady slopes at high altitudes, the persistent weak layer continues to be a threat, most recently in the form of covered surface hoar or faceted crystals beneath melt-freeze crusts. In exposed terrain, e.g. windblown gullies, it is hard and icy: danger of being forced to take a fall.

Snowpack structure

At high altitudes the hardened, melt-freeze encrusted old snowpack surface has been windblown, in many places covered by a thin, loose layer of snowdrift which is bonded poorly with the old snow. At lower altitudes in forested regions the drifted powder has accumulated. The fresh snow will now be deposited on these snow masses on both days, most often as snowdrifts. They do not bond well with the layers atop of which they are deposited. Crests and ridges will be further windblown, the fresh snow transported to lower lying zones.

Weather

Stormy NW winds are supplying moist and instable air masses to the northern flank of the Alps. A front system will reach the Northern Alps and northern Niedere Tauern tonight and provide heavy cloud cover and stormy NW winds until midday. In the summit zones above, about 20 cm of fresh snow is expected. The snowfall level will lie at 1000 m. During the course of the morning clouds will disperse from the west, it will become quite sunny between Dachstein, Totes Gebirge and Ennstal Alps, whereas in the Hochschwab region and eastwards therefrom, it will remain gray.

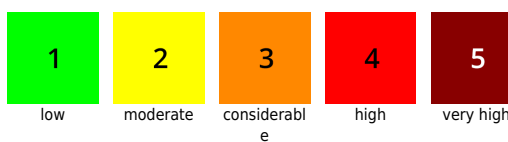
The southern flank of the Alps will have better conditions on leeward slopes, at most a few shower clouds in the morning above the Tauern and further to the southeast. Temperature at midday at 2000 m: -6 degrees; at 1500 m: -1 degree.

On Thursday, an intermediate high will bring quite sunny and milder weather.

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions

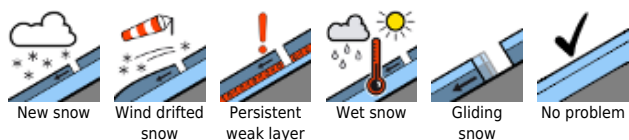


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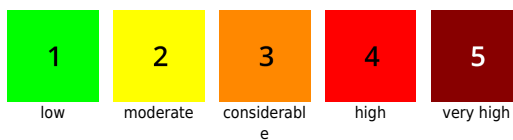
Outlook

Due to higher temperatures, the snowpack will settle and slab avalanche danger will recede. Initially, increased loose-snow avalanche activity.

Avalanche problems



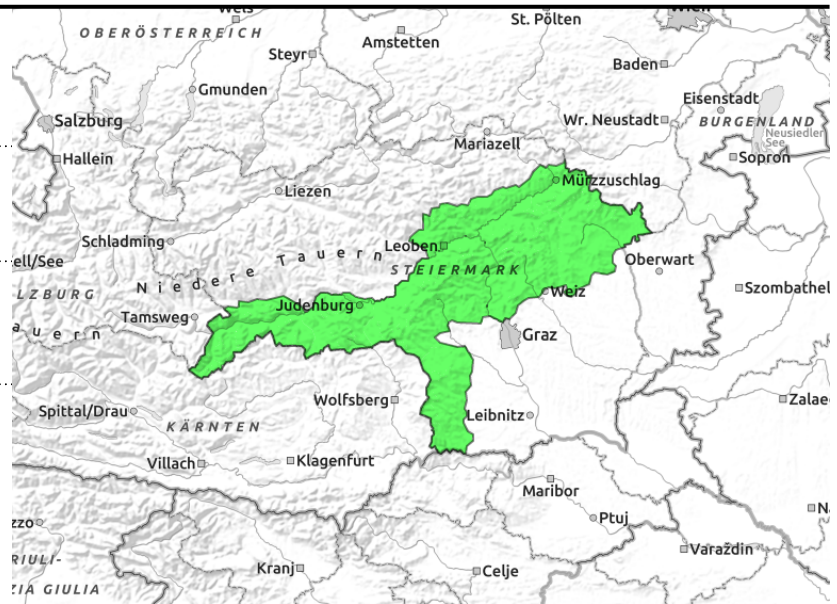
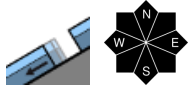
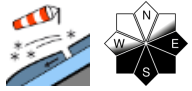
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Heed isolated snowdrift accumulations according to wind signs. Avoid zones below glide-cracks.

Avalanche danger is low. At the forefront is the glide-snow problem in the zones where snowfall is heaviest. Slopes below glide-cracks should be avoided at all costs.

Due to the lack of transportable snow, the permanently storm-strength winds have not been able to generate new snowdrift accumulations. Isolated patches are small, can occur in all aspects. Large weak layers are currently unlikely.

On slopes which are shady at high altitudes, the persistent weak layer still threatens, most recently in the form of blanketed surface hoar or faceted crystals beneath melt-freeze crusts. In exposed terrain, i.e. windblown gullies, it is hard and icy, danger of being forced to take a fall.

Snowpack structure

The change from higher to lower temperatures has stabilized the snowpack. The surfaces are melt-freeze encrusted, on shady slopes there is compressed powder. Due to the lack of fresh snow there was not much in the way of new snowdrifts which could be generated and deposited on the shallow snowpack in the form of a thin, soft layer on the melt-freeze crust of the old snowpack.

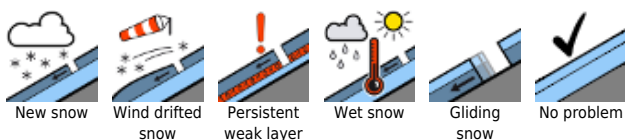
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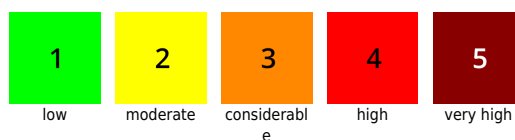
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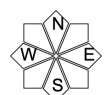
Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



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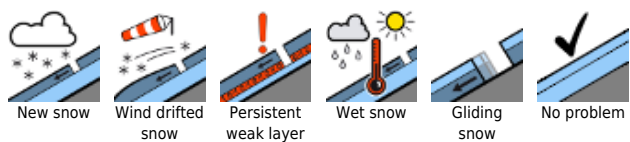
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Outlook

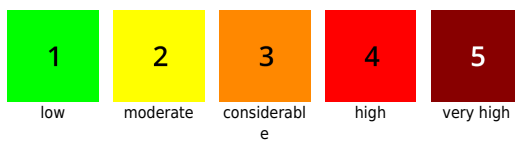
No significant change in avalanche danger levels is expected.

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions

