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**Simple-to-use KATWARN Österreich/Austria app**

**Warnings on your smart phone**

KATWARN Österreich/Austria is best known for its smartphone application. When a warning is received, an alarm siren sounds on the mobile phone and the device vibrates. Short messages are displayed giving information about the hazardous situation and relevant instructions.

**Warning activity**

Symbols, coloured graphics, and texts provide information about the hazardous situation and about the authority issuing the KATWARN warning for the current location.

**Warnings for fellow citizens**

KATWARN Österreich/Austria gives safety- and security-related information and warnings for the user’s current location (displayed as a light-blue area when the Guardian Angel function is activated) and for seven additional locations that can be freely selected. The KATWARN warnings issued may also be shared via social media (e.g. Twitter) at any time.

**Information for predefined target groups**

In addition to location-based warnings, KATWARN Österreich/Austria allows public authorities to predefine target groups, e.g. the visitors of a music festival, and send them safety- and security-related information on a given event, irrespective of their current location.

**Warning overview**

An outline map gives an overview of current warnings in the broader environs, e.g. when a smoke column appears on the horizon.

**Personal test alarm**

Users can trigger a test alarm on their smart phones to see what a real alert sounds and looks like.

**Privacy**

The KATWARN Österreich/Austria system was developed to meet the highest data security and anonymization standards. All location data required by the application are processed in an anonymous way. It is not possible to track the user: any new location input overwrites and erases the previous one.

**Battery consumption**

The application uses geo-locating via base stations and WLAN access points instead of GPS, so that only a small amount of smart phone battery power is taken up.

**The generation of a KATWARN warning**

Authorized institutions and public authorities using KATWARN Österreich/Austria are given access to a specially protected editorial system, which makes it possible to quickly and easily select the target groups affected by an emergency case (e.g. on the basis of affected districts). Subsequently, warning texts and relevant instructions are composed and the warning notifications are transmitted to the smart phones of KATWARN users at the touch of a button. The same applies to all-clear messages sent out later. The messages enable the citizens affected to obtain a clear picture of the hazardous situation, to quickly understand the instructions of experts and to take initial protective measures.

**How much does KATWARN cost?**

KATWARN Österreich/Austria is available free of charge to all Austrian citizens and to all individuals who are temporarily present in Austria. The costs of the system, the technical infrastructure, operations and further development are borne by the Republic of Austria through the Federal Ministry of the Interior as a public service to promote the general welfare.

**Who issues the warnings?**

As a general rule, the KATWARN Österreich/Austria system is available to any public authority and includes a support tool for issuing warnings to the population. In Austria, safety- and security-related information and warnings are issued either by the federal ministries or by regional authorities, depending on which are competent to deal with the hazardous situation. Only official messages are distributed through the KATWARN Österreich/Austria system.

KATWARN Österreich/Austria sees itself as an innovative technological platform that complements existing and proven warning and information tools such as sirens, public address announcements, or announcements via radio/television.

The KATWARN Österreich/Austria warning system is continuously developed and updated. New functionality is added and new trends are anticipated in the process.

**KATWARN Roaming**

The KATWARN application is also well established among authorities in Germany. No matter whether users have installed the Austrian or the German app, the KATWARN roaming technology provides them with safety- and security-related information and warnings issued by the authorities of the other country. However, the responsibility for the alert messages remains with the issuing authority.

This way Austrian citizens can receive German KATWARN information and warnings when travelling in Germany (when Guardian Angel function is activated) or pre-select locations in Germany, and vice versa.