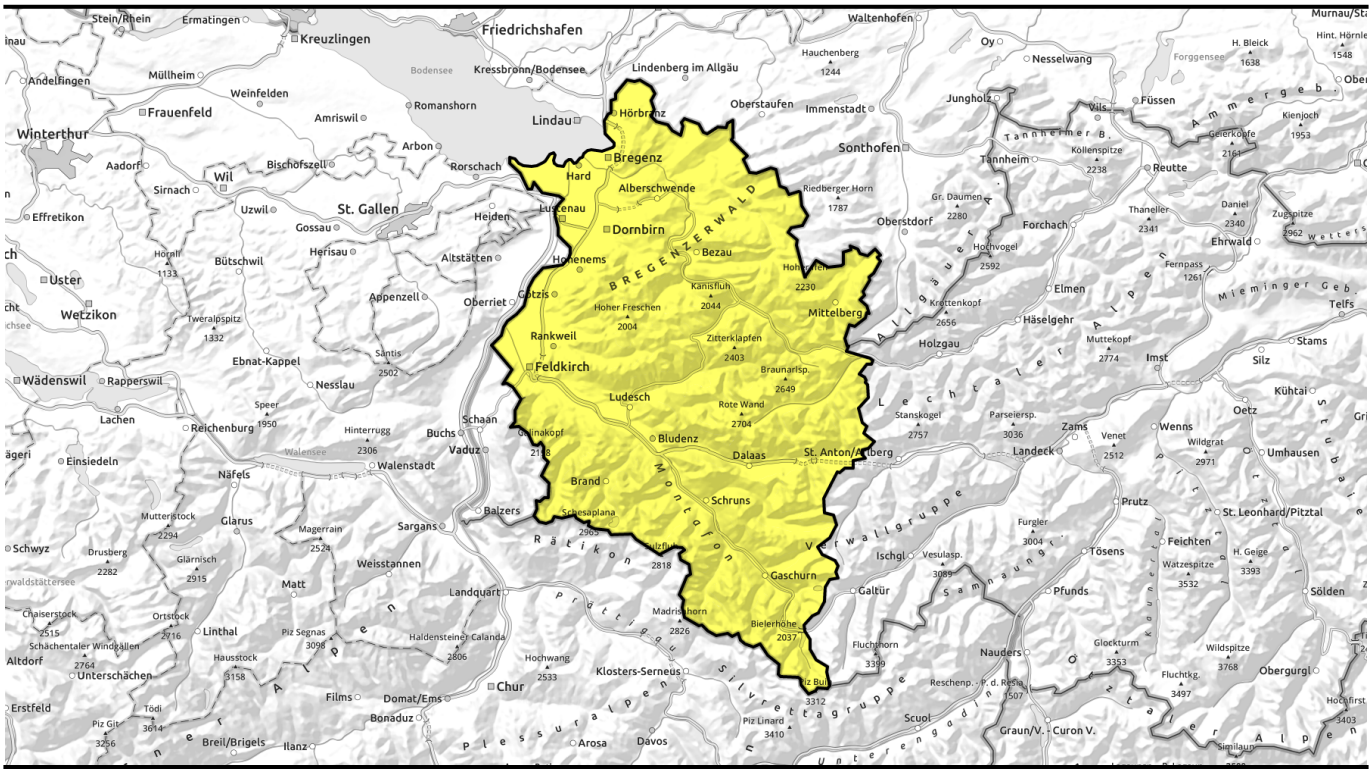
Avalanche report from 19.12.2021, 07:22 h *by Herbert Knünz*

19.12.2021



Caution: glide-snow and wet-snow avalanches & snowdrift accumulations at high altitudes

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Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Silvretta, Verwall, Allgäuer Alpen, Lechtaler Alpen, Bregenzerwaldgebirge, Lechquellengebirge

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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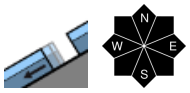
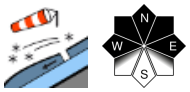
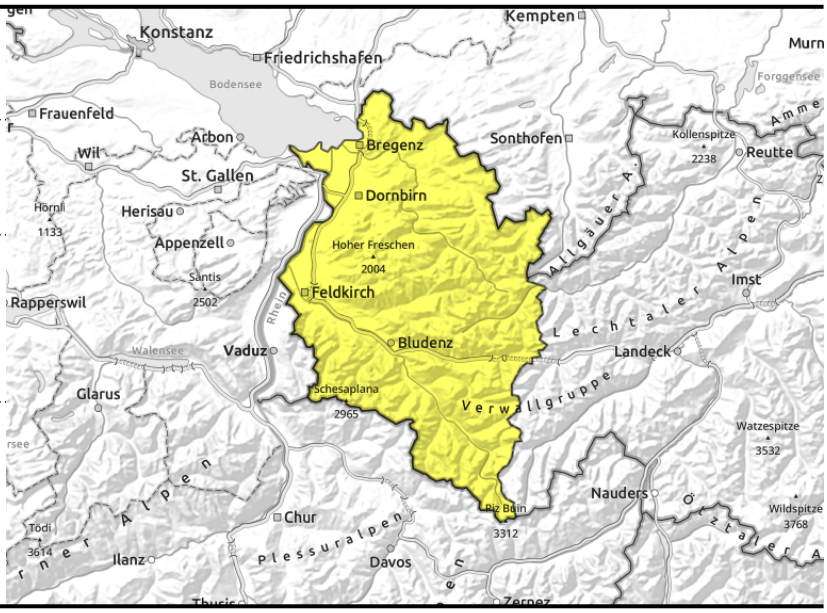
Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Silvretta, Verwall, Allgäuer Alpen, Lechtaler Alpen, Bregenzerwaldgebirge, Lechquellengebirge



glide-snow avalanches below 2400 m, daytime wet avalanches on steep sunny slopes not yet discharged



high ridgeline terrain above 2000 m, gullies, bowls and transitions from shallow to deep snow



Heed daytime cycle of wet-snow avalanches, glide-snow avalanches from grassy steep slopes not yet discharged, snowdrifts above 2000m

On sunny slopes below 2400 m (and shady slopes below 2000 m on steep grassy slopes, in forest clearances and on hillsides which have not yet discharged, small-to-medium glide-snow avalanches can be expected. In regions where snowfall was heaviest they can grow to large size in isolated cases. Cracks in the snowpack are signals of approaching danger. On sunny slopes, in addition, superficial wet loose-snow and slab avalanches can trigger naturally during the course of the day. Fresh and older drifts become more prone to triggering with ascending altitude and can be triggered, particularly by large additional loading. Avalanche prone locations are found especially above 2000 m, in steep ridgeline terrain, in wind-loaded gullies and bowls. In the southern regions, foehn impact was palpable yesterday, new snowdrift accumulations were generated. On high-altitude shady slopes, ground-level weak layers can be triggered particularly by large additional loading in transition zones from deep to shallow snow. If avalanches fracture down to deeper layers of the snowpack they can easily grow to large size.

Snowpack structure

The snowpack has settled and consolidated well over the last few days. Through nocturnal coolness and outgoing radiation the moistened snowpack has regained firmness and at intermediate altitudes formed a thin melt-freeze crust on the surface. This softens during the daytime and the snowpack again forfeits its firmness. Below 1800 m the snowpack is settled but moist, which furthers gliding movement over smooth ground. Due to persistently higher temperatures and solar radiation, there is still heightened danger of glide-snow avalanches. Fresh and older snowdrifts become more prone to triggering with ascending altitude. The snowdrifts generated in the last few days are consolidating, due to warmer temperatures. At mid-level in the snowpack, particularly on high altitude shady slopes, there are weak layers of faceted crystals.

Weather

Flawlessly sunny weather will continue on Sunday, outstanding visibility is assured. Only the northerly wind in high alpine regions will disturb. Temperature at 2000 m: 0 to +2 degrees. Brisk northerly winds at high altitude.

Avalanche problems

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Outlook

Avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly. Danger of dry-snow avalanches will continue to diminish, danger of wet-snow avalanches will increase during the course of each day. Glide-snow avalanches continue to be expected.

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

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