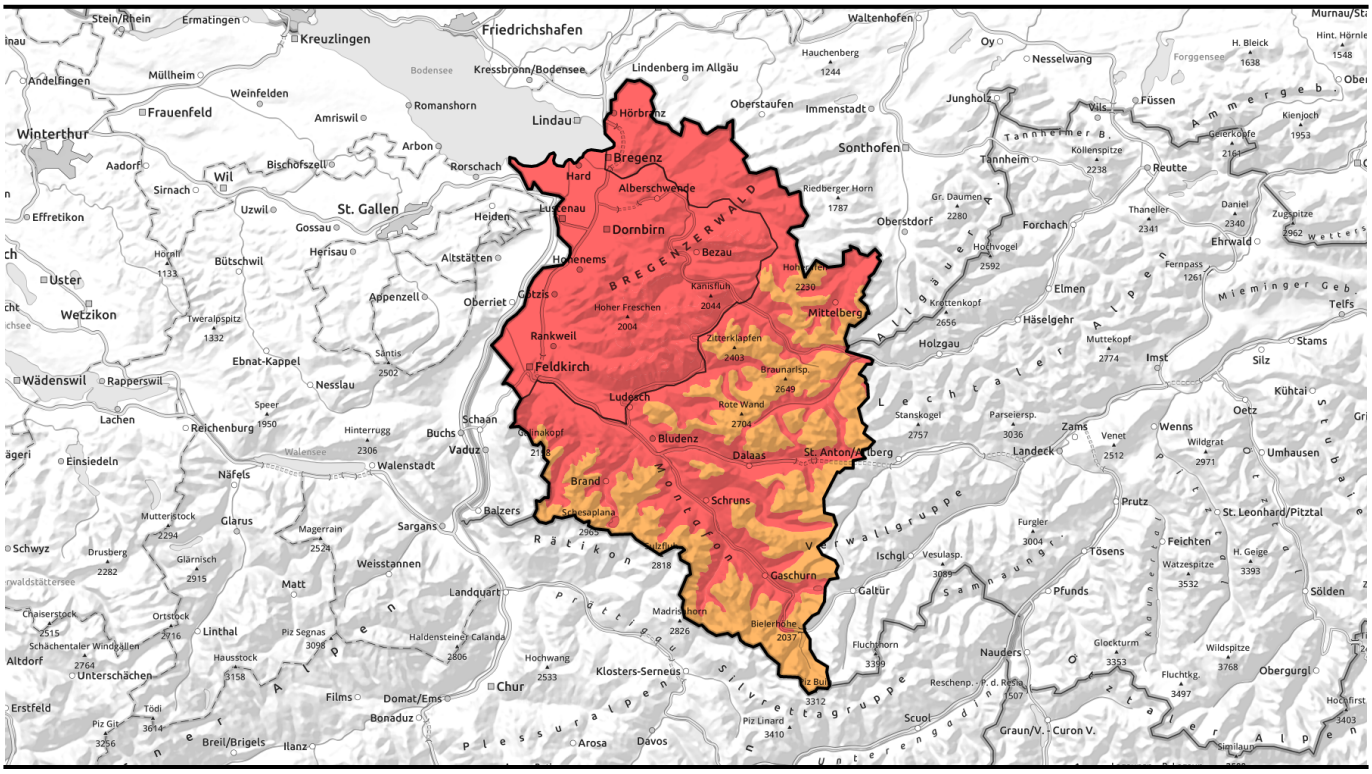
Avalanche report from 30.12.2021, 07:35 h *by Bernhard Anwander*

30.12.2021



Persistent rainfall, gradually ascending snowfall level to far above 2000 m: snowpack weaker. Heavy snowdrift generation at high altitudes.

3 4 2200 m	Silvretta, Rätikon Ost, Rätikon West, Verwall, Lechtaler Alpen, Lechquellengebirge, Allgäuer Alpen	
4	Bregenzerwaldgebirge	

Avalanche problems

New snow | Wind drifted snow | Persistent weak layer | Wet snow | Gliding snow | No problem

Danger ratings

1 low | 2 moderate | 3 considerable | 4 high | 5 very high

Expositions

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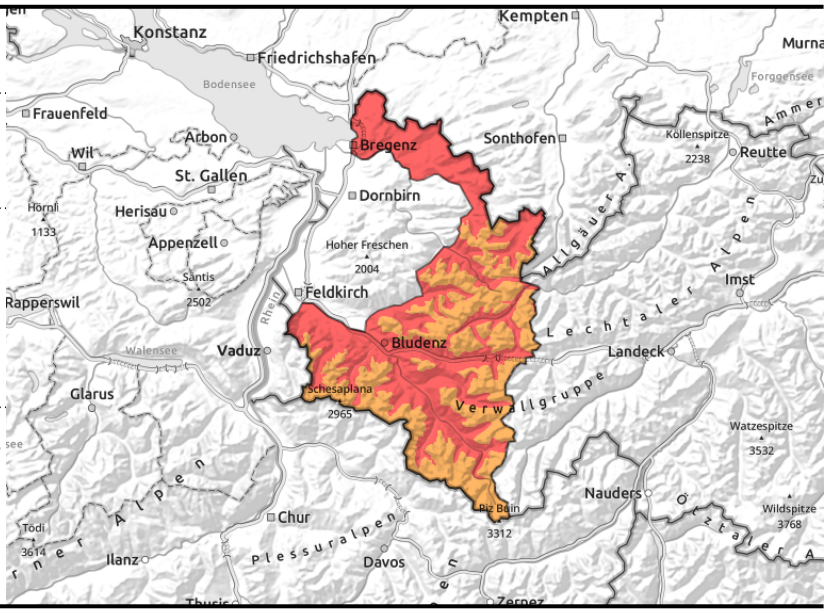
Silvretta, Rätikon Ost, Rätikon West, Verwall, Lechtaler Alpen, Lechquellengebirge, Allgäuer Alpen

2200 m

esp. above 2200m new-snow and drifts trigger-sensitive; steep terrain, behind protruberances, wind-loaded gullies and bowls

high danger of glide-snow, wet-snow avalanches below 2200m due to mild temperatures and heavy rainfall



High danger of wet-snow avalanches, considerable danger of dry-snow avalanches, due to new snow, rain, wind

New snow and freshly generated snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering, can be triggered even by minimum additional loading and unleash dangerously large-sized avalanches. Avalanche prone locations are found in steep terrain in all aspects, behind protruberances and in wind-loaded gullies and bowls. Spread and frequency of danger zones increase with ascending altitude. Naturally triggered large-sized (in isolated cases very large sized) avalanches are possible in the heavily wind-loaded zones at high altitude. South of the Austrian border in Rätikon and Silvretta, Danger Level 4 (“High avalanche danger”) has been reached. In the bordering regions of Rätikon and Silvretta it is thus necessary to evaluate avalanche danger as critical.
Due to mild temperatures and intensive rainfall the danger of glide-snow and wet-snow avalanches has significantly increased in all aspects below 2200m. Numerous naturally triggered large-sized wet-snow avalanches can be expected. As the rainfall slackens off this afternoon, the danger of wet-snow and glide-snow avalanches will incrementally decrease.

Snowpack structure

Yesterday afternoon, heavy rainfall set in and continued into the night. It was extraordinarily mild, the snowfall level ascended step by step to far above 2000 m. The snowpack thus became thoroughly wet up to high altitudes, and was weakened. The apogee of naturally triggered wet-snow avalanche activity was probably reached during the night. In the last 24 hours there has been 25-30 cm of fresh snow registered above 2200m, up to 35 cm in the Silvretta. As a result of storm-strength NW winds the new snow was intensively transported at high altitudes. Also on Thursday, snowdrift accumulations will be generated far distant from ridgelines by stormy NW winds. The new snow and snowdrifts are then deposited on wind-crusts or melt-freeze crusts atop snowdrifted layers from the last two days, on high-altitude shady slopes atop loose, powdery layers in some places, and are prone to triggering. On south-facing slopes, bonding to the old snowpack is better. In addition, on very steep high-altitude shady slopes there are weak layers at mid-level inside the snowpack in some places: they are prone to triggering.

Avalanche problems

New snow | Wind drifted snow | Persistent weak layer | Wet snow | Gliding snow | No problem

Danger ratings

low | moderate | considerable | high | very high

Expositions

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Weather

A striking warm front is creating practically subterranean conditions. Visibility is very poor all morning long, rainfall continues over widespread areas up to nearly 2500 m. The rain will ease this afternoon. New snow will fall only in high alpine regions. During the course of the afternoon, clouds will begin to disperse. Temperature at 2000m: +4 degrees. Initially stormy NW winds at high altitude, this afternoon blowing at strong velocity.

Outlook

Springtime conditions prevail, including a daytime increase in avalanche danger.

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

Avalanche report from 30.12.2021, 07:35 h *by Bernhard Anwander*

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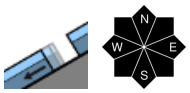
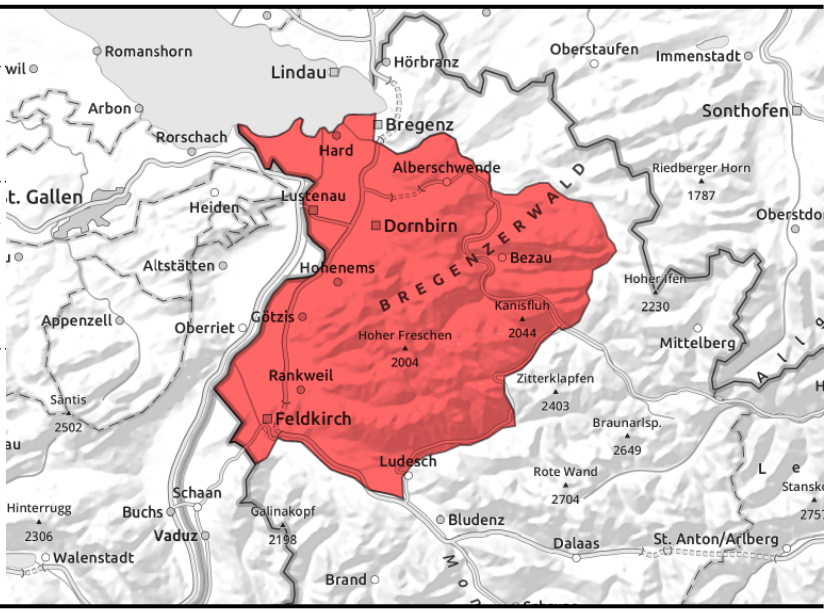
Bregenzerwaldgebirge

high danger of glide-snow, wet-snow avalanches below 2200m due to mild temperatures and heavy rainfall





Persistent rainfall, gradually ascending snowfall level to far above 2000 m: weak snowpack

Due to mild temperatures and intensive rainfall the danger of glide-snow and wet-snow avalanches has increased significantly below 2200m in all aspects, numerous naturally triggered large-sized wet-snow avalanches can be expected. As rain slackens off this afternoon, the danger of wet-snow and glide-snow avalanches will incrementally recede.

Snowpack structure

Yesterday afternoon, heavy rainfall set in and continued into the night. It was extraordinarily mild, the snowfall level ascended step by step to far above 2000 m. The snowpack thus became thoroughly wet up to high altitudes, and was weakened. The apogee of naturally triggered wet-snow avalanche activity was probably reached during the night. In the last 24 hours there has been 25-30 cm of fresh snow registered above 2200m, up to 35 cm in the Silvretta. As a result of storm-strength NW winds the new snow was intensively transported at high altitudes. Also on Thursday, snowdrift accumulations will be generated far distant from ridgelines by stormy NW winds. The new snow and snowdrifts are then deposited on wind-crusts or melt-freeze crusts atop snowdrifted layers from the last two days, on high-altitude shady slopes atop loose, powdery layers in some places, and are prone to triggering. On south-facing slopes, bonding to the old snowpack is better. In addition, on very steep high-altitude shady slopes there are weak layers at mid-level inside the snowpack in some places: they are prone to triggering.

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Avalanche problems

New snow | Wind drifted snow | Persistent weak layer | Wet snow | Gliding snow | No problem

Danger ratings

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Expositions

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30.12.2021

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

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low	moderate	considerable	high	very high

Expositions