

Rising avalanche danger due to rainfall, fresh snow and storm-strength winds



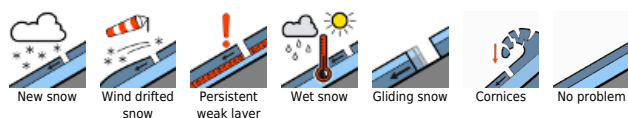
Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Silvretta, Verwall, Lechquellengebirge, Lechtaler Alpen, Bregenzerwaldgebirge, Allgäuer Alpen



Voralpenbereich



Avalanche problems



Danger ratings

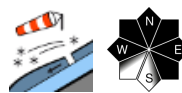



Expositions

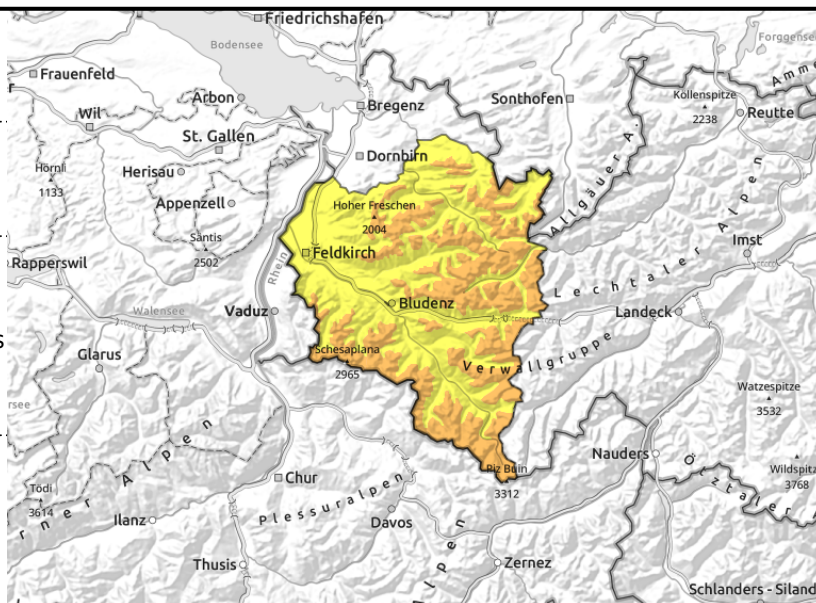


Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Silvretta, Verwall, Lechquellengebirge, Lechtaler Alpen, Bregenzerwaldgebirge, Allgäuer Alpen



 fresh snow + fresh drifts are very prone to triggering; also >2200m blanketed weak layers in old snow are difficult to recognize

 in rain-impacted zones: thoroughly wet, much weakened snowpack



Increased avalanche danger due to fresh snow, wind, rainfall

As a result of fresh snowfall and wind, fresh snowdrift accumulations require high attentiveness with increasing altitude, particularly in steep ridgeline terrain, in wind-loaded gullies and bowls, behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain. Size and spread of the drifts increase with ascending altitude. Also, above 2200 m particularly on steep shady slopes, unfavourable layers in the old snowpack are evident. Small-to-medium, isolated also large-sized slabs can be triggered even by one single winter sports enthusiast. Also naturally triggered avalanches are possible on steep shady slopes. These can sweep away the entire snowpack and grow to large size. In zones where there has been rain impact at low and intermediate altitude in all aspects, wet slides and small-to-medium avalanches can trigger from starting zones which have not yet discharged, as well as small glide-snow avalanches on steep grass-covered slopes.

Snowpack structure

The intermittently storm-strength westerly winds at high altitudes will transport the snow on Friday night and generate new snowdrift accumulations. Fresh fallen snow and freshly generated snowdrifts will be deposited atop an encrusted old snowpack surface. Bonding is often weak-to-moderate. In addition, on steep shady slopes above 2200 m the layering is frequently weak. The additional loading of the fresh snow and drifts will lead to further tensions. These danger spots are not visible to the naked eye. Mostly shallow snowpacks will be further moistened at intermediate altitudes, thereby forfeiting even more of their firmness. Sunny slopes at intermediate altitudes are becoming bare of snow.

Weather

On Friday night: gray skies, rainy weather, the clouds will remain heavy, intensive rainfall will continue. Strong westerly winds will be blowing. The snowfall level will lie at 2000-2300 m at midnight, descending to nearly 1500-1700 m by Saturday morning. In the northern barrier cloud regions of the Allgäu Alps and Lechquellen Massif, up to 30 cm of fresh snow is expected, elsewhere up to 10 cm. Saturday: rainfall in the morning, intensive snowfall in the northern massifs. Up to 30 cm of fresh snow is possible in the northern barrier cloud regions. Further south, the amounts will be far less. Snowfall level will lie between 1400 and 1700 m. In the afternoon the precipitation will slacken off gradually. It will remain quite windy in the mountains. Temperature at 2000 m: -1 degree. Strong

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Expositions



Avalanche report for **Saturday, 24.12.2022**

to stormy westerly winds at high altitudes.

Outlook

On Sunday it will become increasingly sunny. Brisk W/SW winds will bring mild air masses, the zero-degree level will climb to 3000 m. Due to more generation of snowdrifts, the avalanche danger levels will remain considerable at high altitudes. The persistent weak layer on high altitude shady slopes will stay with us.

Avalanche problems



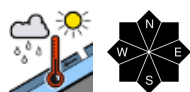
Danger ratings



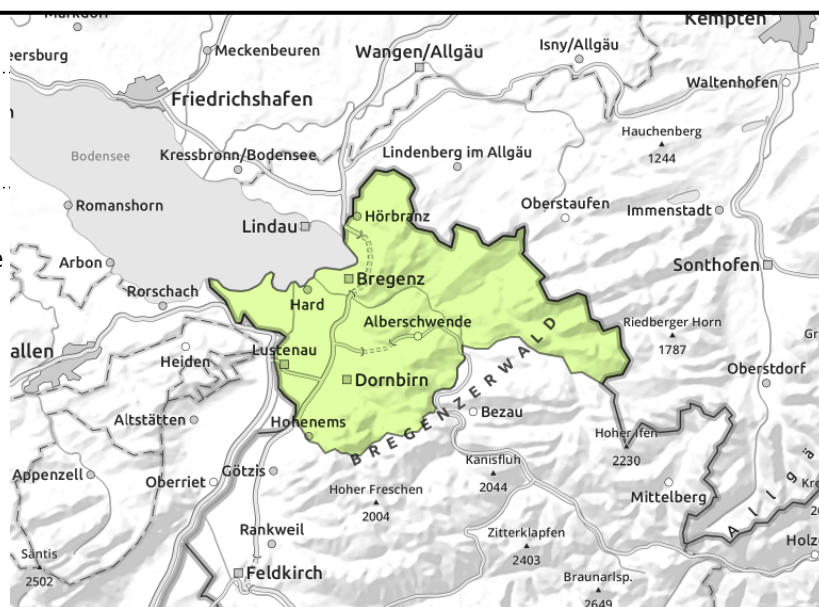
Expositions



Voralpenbereich



slides and small avalanches from starting zones which have not yet discharged, also isolated glide-snow avalanches



Small wet avalanches due to rainfall and warmth

Low avalanche danger prevails for the most part. As a result of rain impact, wet slides and small avalanches are still possible in zones at intermediate and low altitudes which have not yet discharged, as well as small glide-snow avalanches on steep grass-covered slopes.

Snowpack structure

The shallow snowpack is becoming thoroughly wet up to intermediate altitude, thus forfeiting its firmness. Rain and mild temperatures are improving the snowpack layering. Only little snow lies on the ground. Sunny slopes up to intermediate altitudes are becoming bare of snow.

Weather

On Friday night: gray skies, rainy weather, the clouds will remain heavy, intensive rainfall will continue. Strong westerly winds will be blowing. The snowfall level will lie at 2000-2300 m at midnight, descending to nearly 1500-1700 m by Saturday morning. In the northern barrier cloud regions of the Allgäu Alps and Lechquellen Massif, up to 30 cm of fresh snow is expected, elsewhere up to 10 cm. Saturday: rainfall in the morning, intensive snowfall in the northern massifs. Up to 30 cm of fresh snow is possible in the northern barrier cloud regions. Further south, the amounts will be far less. Snowfall level will lie between 1400 and 1700 m. In the afternoon the precipitation will slacken off gradually. It will remain quite windy in the mountains. Temperature at 2000 m: -1 degree. Strong to stormy westerly winds at high altitudes.

Outlook

Slopes are becoming bare of snow. Only in zones which have not yet discharged, small wet-snow and glide-snow avalanches continue to be possible. Avalanche danger will remain low.

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions

