

Strong SW winds still generating snowdrifts. Considerable danger regionally at high altitudes.

	2200 m	Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Silvretta, Verwall, Lechquellengebirge, Lechtaler Alpen, Allgäuer Alpen	
		Voralpenbereich	
	2000 m	Bregenzerwaldgebirge	

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings





Expositions





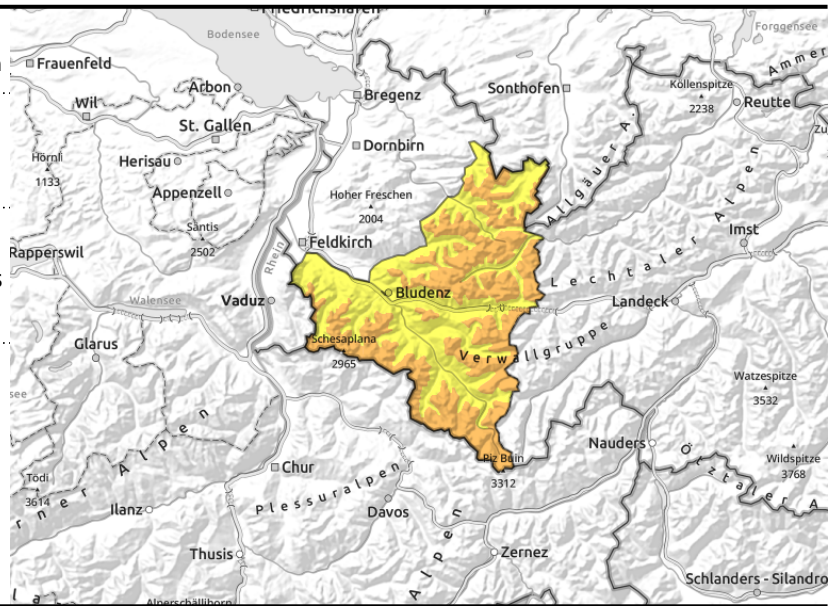
Avalanche report for Thursday, 29.12.2022

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



  fresh and older snowdrifts are prone to triggering / transitions from shallow to deep snow

  >2200 m blanketed weak layers are difficult to recognize



Main danger: fresh and older snowdrifts and weak layers in the old snow

At high altitudes, particularly on steep ridgeline slopes, in wind-loaded gullies and bowls and behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain, fresh and older snowdrift accumulations require high attentiveness. Size and spread of danger zones increase with ascending altitude. In addition, above 2200/2300 m on steep shady slopes in particular, there are unfavourable weak layers evident. Settling noises and glide cracks are signals of imminent danger. One sole winter sports enthusiast can trigger avalanches of medium size which can then sweep away the entire snowpack and grow, in isolated cases, to large size. On steep grassy slopes in all aspects below about 2200 m, small-to-medium glide-snow avalanches can trigger naturally in zones which have not yet discharged.

Snowpack structure

Older snowdrifts particularly on sunny slopes were able to settle and increasingly consolidate, but are often still prone to triggering. In ridgeline zones it is still windy, snow is being transported, drifts are accumulating which are prone to triggering. At high altitude the snowpack snags heavy wind impact from the west. Particularly shady slopes above 2200 m have poor snowpack layering. These danger zones are not visible to the naked eye. Wind-protected areas have loose snowpack surfaces, often surface hoar. The generally shallow snowpack is moist up to intermediate altitudes. Skiing tours and descents in outlying terrain below the timberline, often below 2000 m, are unrewarding due to the lack of snow. At low altitudes there is often no snow on the ground.

Weather

Wednesday night: only scattered clouds to begin with, later on becoming heavier, but it will remain dry. Thursday: very windy, relatively fine weather, dry in the mountains, some high-altitude cloudbanks, heavier in the afternoon hours, will pass through. In the evening and during the nocturnal hours, a front with precipitation is expected, snowfall down to 1500 m. Still relatively mild. At 2000 m: 0 to +2 degrees. Strong SW winds initially, slackening off in the afternoon.

Outlook

On Thursday night, a bit of fresh snow is expected amid strong SW winds which will transport it. Avalanche danger will increase.

Avalanche problems

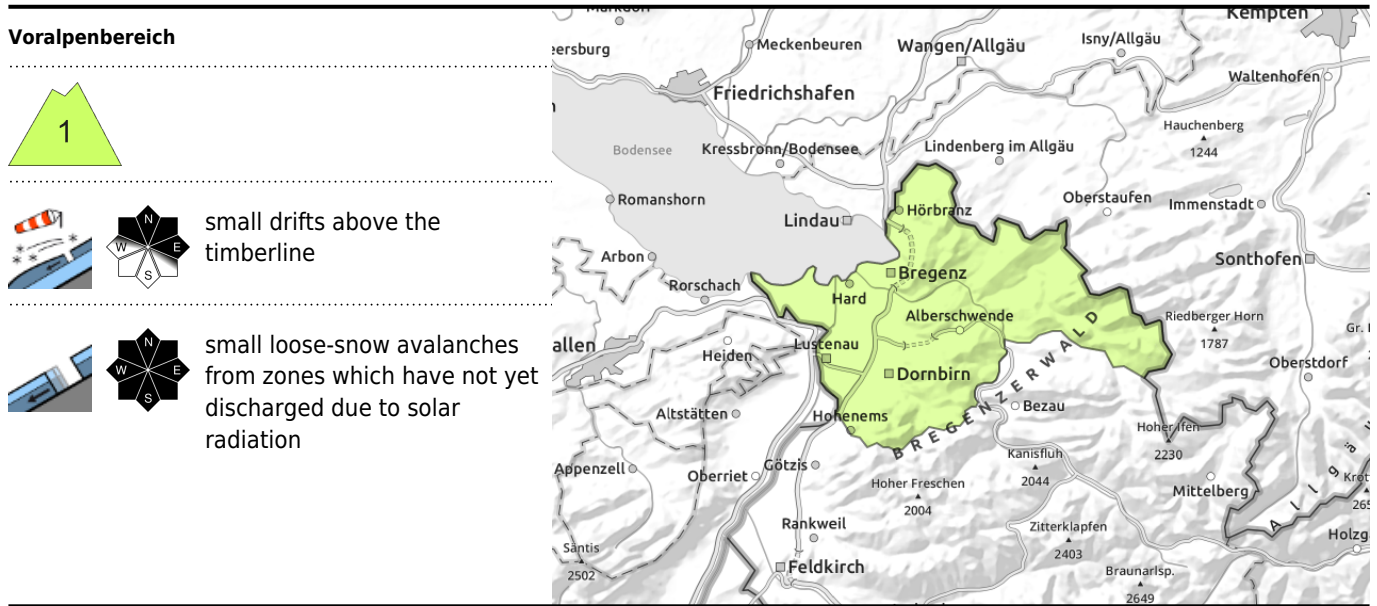


Danger ratings



Expositions





Small drifts above the treeline require attentiveness

Mostly low danger prevails. On steep slopes which have not yet discharged, small glide-snow avalanches can trigger naturally. With ascending altitude the small trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations require attentiveness. On very steep sunny slopes small loose-snow avalanches are possible due to solar radiation.

Snowpack structure

The snowdrifts were able to settle and increasingly consolidate with the higher temperatures. The generally shallow snowpack is moist up to intermediate altitudes. Skiing tours and descents in outlying terrain below the timberline, often below 2000 m, are unrewarding due to the lack of snow. At low altitudes there is often no snow on the ground.

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Outlook

Avalanche danger will remain low.

Avalanche problems

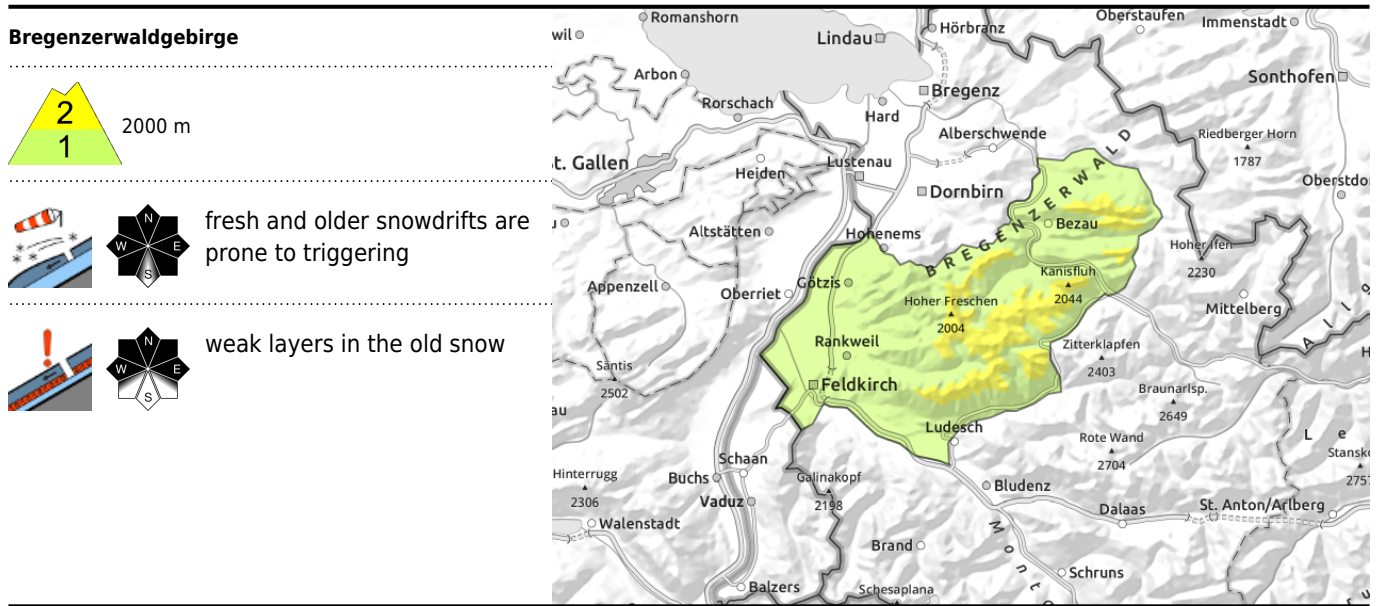


Danger ratings



Expositions





Main danger: fresh and older snowdrifts and weak layers in the old snow

Particularly in steep ridgeline terrain above 1800 m, in wind-loaded gullies and bowls and behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain, the fresh and older snowdrift accumulations require attentiveness. Size and spread of danger zones increase with ascending altitude. In addition, above 2200/2300 m on steep shady slopes in particular, there are unfavourable weak layers evident. Settling noises and glide cracks are signals of imminent danger. One sole winter sports enthusiast can trigger avalanches of medium size which can then sweep away the entire snowpack and grow, in isolated cases, to large size. On steep grassy slopes in all aspects below about 2200 m, small-to-medium glide-snow avalanches can trigger naturally in zones which have not yet discharged.

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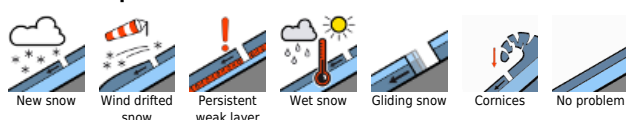
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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

Avalanche problems



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Expositions

