

Considerable avalanche danger at high altitudes

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

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions



Avalanche report for Friday, 13.01.2023

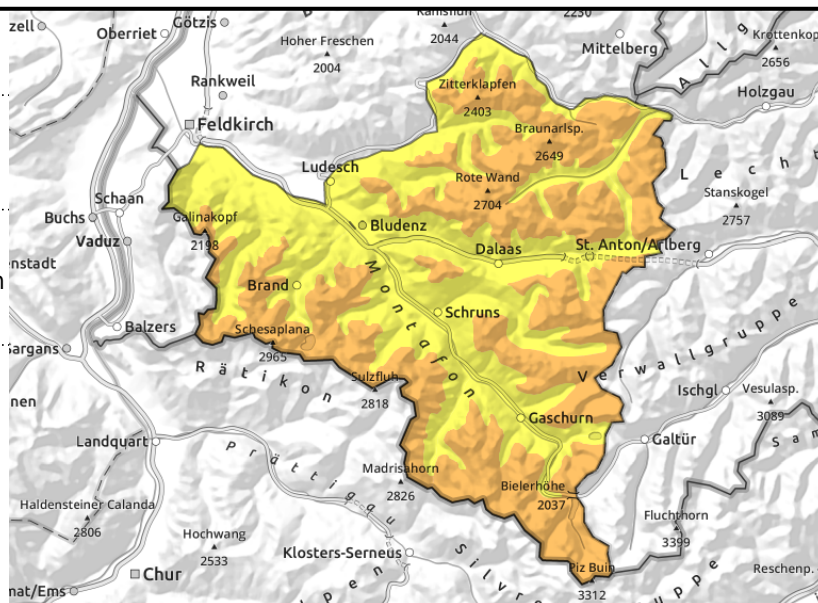
Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Silvretta, Verwall, Lechquellengebirge, Lechtaler Alpen



wind-loaded gullies, bowls, behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain



>2400 m blanketed weak layers are difficult to recognize



Main danger: fresh snowdrift accumulations and weak layers in the old snow

Fresh snow and snowdrifts are prone to triggering particularly in ridgeline zones, wind-loaded gullies and bowls and behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain. They tend to increase with ascending altitude. Small to medium slab avalanches can be triggered by one sole winter sports enthusiast. If they fracture to deeper layers they can grow to large size. Also, above 2400 m on steep shady slopes there are unfavourable layers in the old snowpack. In very steep terrain and heavily wind-loaded zones, small slab avalanches and increasingly frequent slides can trigger naturally. As a consequence of rainfall at low altitudes, moist slides and small-glide snow avalanches on steep grassy slopes are possible.

Snowpack structure

The latest batch of fresh fallen snow (10 cm) was transported far-reachingly at high altitudes. The snowfall level will descend in the afternoon from 1400 to 1000 m. Fresh snow and drifts have settled and consolidated. They lie deposited atop loose and soft layers or melt-freeze encrusted old snowpack surfaces. Bonding deteriorates with ascending altitude. At high altitudes on shady slopes in particular, there are still weak layers evident deeply embedded inside the snowpack fundament. These danger zones are not visible to the naked eye.

Weather

On Thursday night: nighttime skies will remain dry, but with strong to stormy westerly winds. Friday: Strong to stormy westerly winds, visibility will swiftly alternate, rainfall and snowfall will focus on the northern massifs. In the afternoon, temperatures will drop, the snowfall level descend from 1400 to 1000 m. At 2000 m: -2 to -5 degrees. Strong to stormy westerly winds.

Outlook

Saturday will be gloomy but dry, winds will be brisk, intensifying in the afternoon, from the west. Avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions



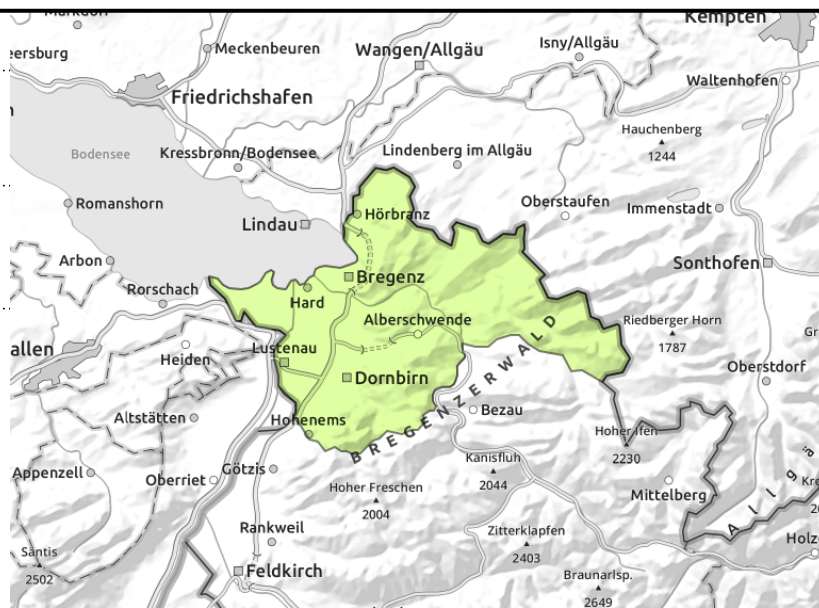
Voralpenbereich



steep, smooth grass-covered slopes and hillsides



in isolated high-altitude ridgeline and summit zones



Despite some fresh snow, only low avalanche danger

The small amount of fresh snow still brings only low avalanche danger. Small glide-snow avalanches and slides are possible on steep, smooth grass-covered slopes above all else.

Snowpack structure

Above 1400 m, up to 10 cm of fresh snow is expected tomorrow. Snowfall level will descend in the afternoon from 1400 down to 1000 m. In higher altitude ridgeline and summit zones the latest snowfall will be intermittently transported. Small, fresh snowdrift accumulations will be generated.

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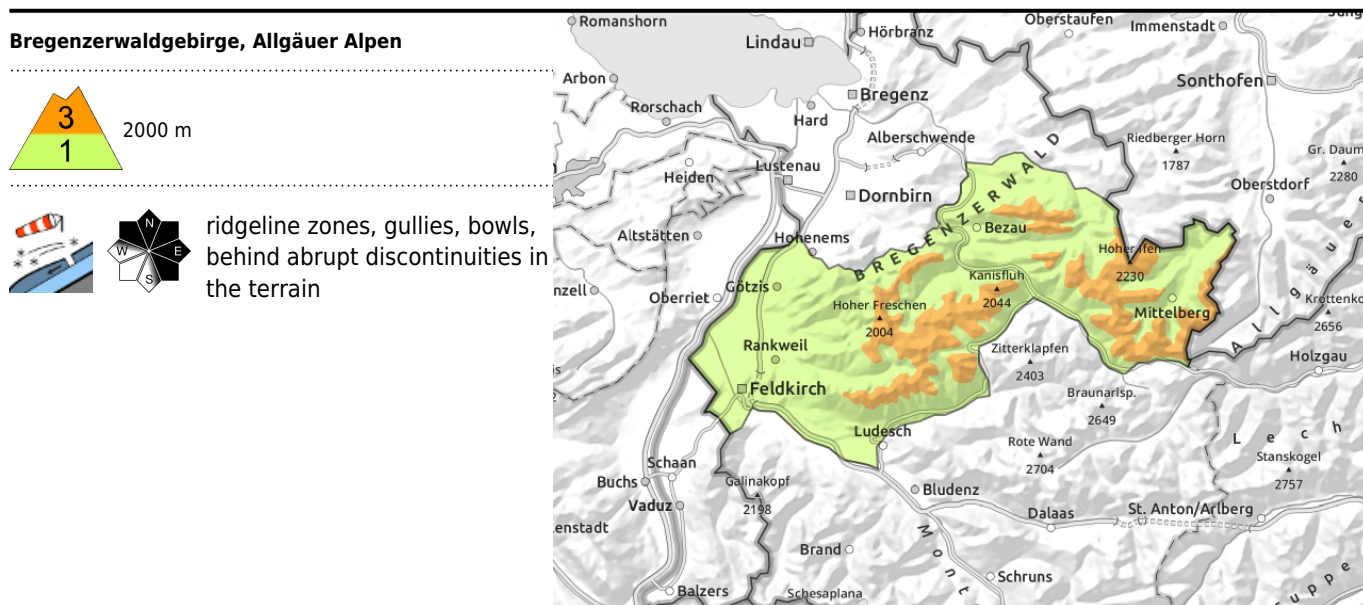


Danger ratings



Expositions





Heed snowdrifts at high altitudes

Fresh snow and snowdrifts are prone to triggering particularly in ridgeline zones, wind-loaded gullies and bowls and behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain. They tend to increase with ascending altitude. Small to medium slab avalanches can be triggered by one sole winter sports enthusiast. As a result of daytime warming and in areas where there has been rain impact, slides and small loose-snow avalanches and - on steep grass-covered slopes - small glide-snow avalanches are possible.

Snowpack structure

The latest batch of fresh fallen snow (10 cm). The snowfall level will descend in the afternoon from 1400 to 1000 m. Fresh snow and drifts have settled and consolidated. They lie deposited atop loose and soft layers or melt-freeze encrusted old snowpack surfaces. Bonding deteriorates with ascending altitude. These danger zones are not visible to the naked eye. Below 1800 m the snow often fell on bare ground, sometimes on warm ground.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

Avalanche problems



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