

Attention winter sports enthusiasts: regionally considerable danger at high altitudes

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

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings

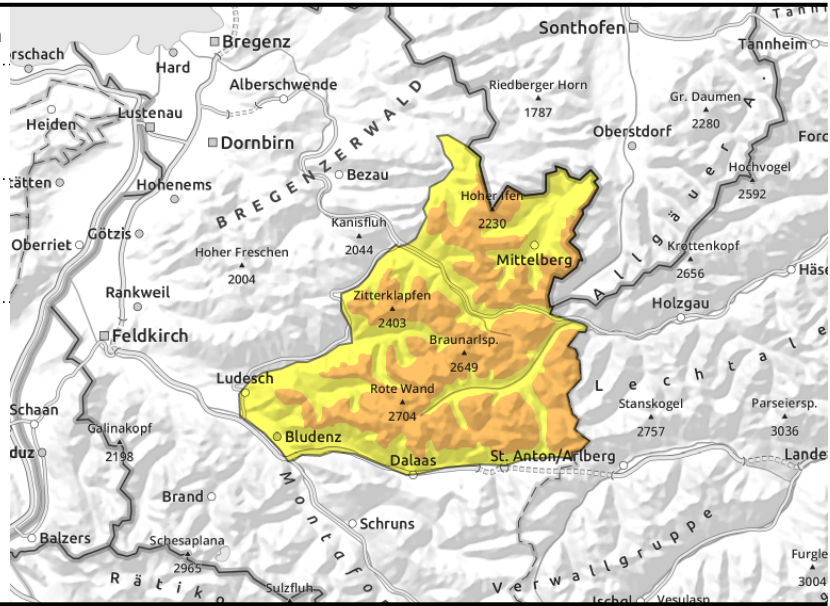
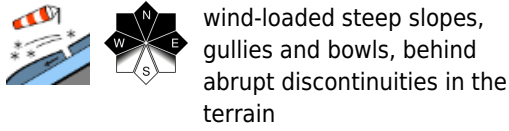
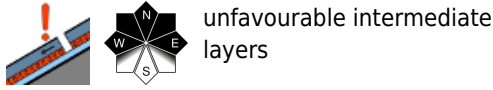


Expositions



Avalanche report for Thursday, 09.02.2023

Lechquellengebirge, Lechtaler Alpen, Allgäuer Alpen



Still trigger-sensitive intermediate layers on high-altitude shady slopes

Considerable avalanche danger prevails at high altitudes. Avalanche prone locations occur in wind-loaded steep terrain, behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain, and in gullies and bowls, Small to medium, in isolated cases also large-sized slab avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, i.e. the weight of one sole skier. Whumpf noises and glide-cracks in the snowpack are signals of imminent danger. Activities in backcountry terrain demand experience in assessing dangers on-site. In addition, on steep, seldom-tracked shady slopes at high altitudes, more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack can be triggered by large additional loading. Below 2200 m on sunny steep grassy slopes, glide-snow avalanches are possible.

Snowpack structure

Fresh snow and drifts were able to settle at low and intermediate altitudes, and consolidate. With ascending altitude this process requires longer. Fresh snow and snowdrifts often lie deposited atop unfavourable old snowpack surfaces consisting of surface hoar, melt-freeze encrusted or softened layers. Bonding of fresh snow and drifts to these layers and also inside the snowpack itself is frequently poor. At high altitudes on steep shady slopes there are still older unfavourable intermediate layers inside the snowpack which are not visible to the naked eye. Naturally triggered avalanches confirm the proneness to triggering of the snowpack.

Weather

Nocturnal hours: a night of clear and cold skies, temperatures dropping to -4 to -10 degrees, in places to -15 degrees. Thursday: high-pressure front conditions, cloudless skies, brilliant sunshine. Slight SE foehn wind can be bothersome especially in Silvretta-Arlberg regions. At 2000 m: -10 to -7 degrees. Moderate easterly winds.

Outlook

Mostly sunny in coming days due to high-pressure front conditions. Temperatures will remain wintery. The snowpack is still prone to triggering.

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions



Avalanche report for Thursday, 09.02.2023

Bregenzerwaldgebirge, Voralpenbereich



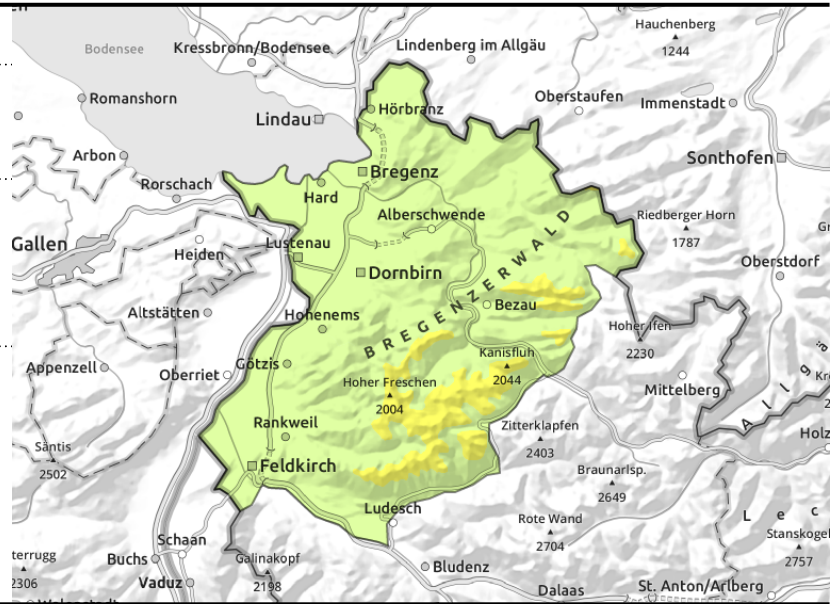
forestline



weak layers on shady wind-loaded steep slopes, in gullies and bowls, and behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain



increasingly on steep, smooth grass-covered slopes



Still trigger-sensitive intermediate layers on high-altitude shady slopes

On high-altitude shady slopes there are trigger-sensitive intermediate layers in the snowpack. Danger zones occur on shady wind-loaded steep slopes, behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain and in gullies and bowls. Small-to-medium, in isolated cases large-sized slab avalanches can be triggered by the weight of one single person. Whumpf noises and glide-cracks are signals of imminent danger. Also remote triggerings are possible. Activities in backcountry demand a great deal of experience in assessing dangers on-site. Furthermore, on steep seldom-tracked shady slopes at high altitudes there are weak layers deeply embedded in the snowpack which are triggerable by large additional loading. Below 2200 m on sunny steep slopes, glide-snow avalanches are possible.

Snowpack structure

Fresh snow and drifts were able to settle at low and intermediate altitudes, and consolidate. With ascending altitude this process requires longer. Fresh snow and snowdrifts often lie deposited atop unfavourable old snowpack surfaces consisting of surface hoar, melt-freeze encrusted or softened layers. Bonding of fresh snow and drifts to these layers and also inside the snowpack itself is frequently poor. At high altitudes on steep shady slopes there are still older unfavourable intermediate layers inside the snowpack which are not visible to the naked eye. Naturally triggered avalanches confirm the proneness to triggering of the snowpack.

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Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions

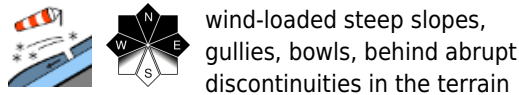


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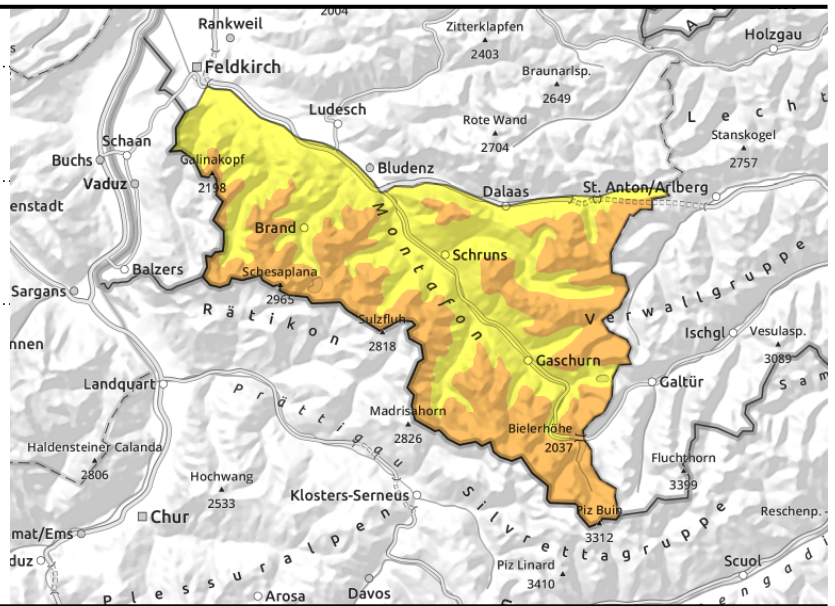
Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Verwall, Silvretta



unfavourable layering



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



Still unfavourable conditions at high altitudes

At high altitudes, considerable avalanche danger still prevails. Avalanche prone locations occur in wind-loaded steep terrain, also distant from ridgelines and particularly behind abrupt discontinuities in the terrain, in gullies and bowls. Size and spread of the danger zones increase with ascending altitude. Whumpf noises and glide cracks in the snowpack surface are signals of danger. Also remote triggerings and naturally triggered avalanches are possible. If avalanches fracture down to these layers they can grow to large size. Below 2200 m on sunny steep grassy slopes, glide-snow avalanches are possible during the day.

Snowpack structure

In higher altitude ridgeline terrain, fresh trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations have been generated by the strong SE winds. Fresh snow and drifts from the last few days have been able to settle and consolidate. On sunny slopes the snowpack as settled due to solar radiation. With ascending altitude this process takes somewhat longer due to low temperatures. Fresh snow and snowdrifts often lie deposited atop unfavourable weak layers with surface hoar, melt-freeze crusts or softened layers. Bonding of fresh snow and drifts to the snowpack and between the inner-snowpack layers is often poor. Reports, naturally triggered releases and stability tests confirm the high proneness to triggering of the snowpack.

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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



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