

High-altitude snowdrift accumulations. Continuing wet-snow/glide-snow avalanches

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

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



Expositions



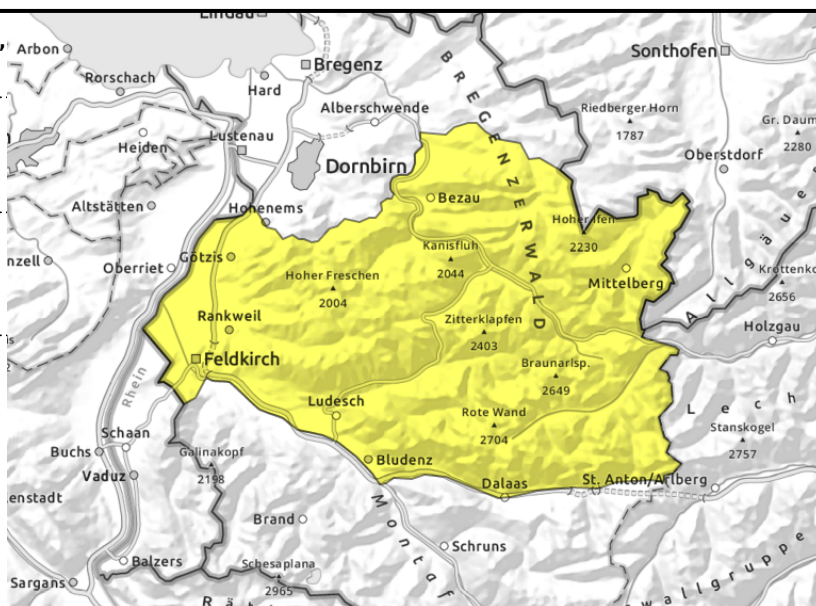
Lechquellengebirge, Lechtaler Alpen, Allgäuer Alpen, Bregenzerwaldgebirge



>2000 snowdrifts trigger prone



<2400 m glide-snow avalanches on steep smooth slopes, wet-snow avalanches



Beware snowdrift accumulations at high altitudes

At high altitudes snowdrift accumulations are often trigger-prone, easily triggerable as small avalanches. Evaluate the snowdrifts with caution in steep terrain. Danger zones occur on north-facing slopes above 2400 m in very steep terrain, esp. in transitions from shallow to deep snow, e.g. at entries into gullies and bowls. Glide-snow avalanches can trigger below 2600 m at any time of day or night and reach large size. Caution urged below glide cracks. Due to rain impact, mostly small-sized wet loose-snow avalanches can be expected.

Snowpack structure

As a result of strong foehn winds, fresh snowdrift accumulations have been generated, they lie deposited esp on shady slopes atop soft layers. On north-facing slopes above 2400 m, near-surface weak layers have persisted. The old snowpack is generally compact and stable. At low and intermediate altitudes it is thoroughly wet down to the ground. Clouds passing through will hamper nocturnal longwave outgoing radiation, a crust capable of bearing loads cannot form easily.

Weather

Nocturnal hours: The foehn wind will come to an end, it will be cloudy but dry. Monday daytime: Dry weather, variably cloudy, some sunshine, some fog. At 2000 m: -1 to +2 degrees. Light to moderate easterly winds.

Outlook

Tuesday will be variably cloudy with some precipitation, somewhat cooler. Danger of wet-snow avalanches will recede slightly, otherwise avalanche danger levels are not expected to change significantly.

Avalanche problems



Danger ratings



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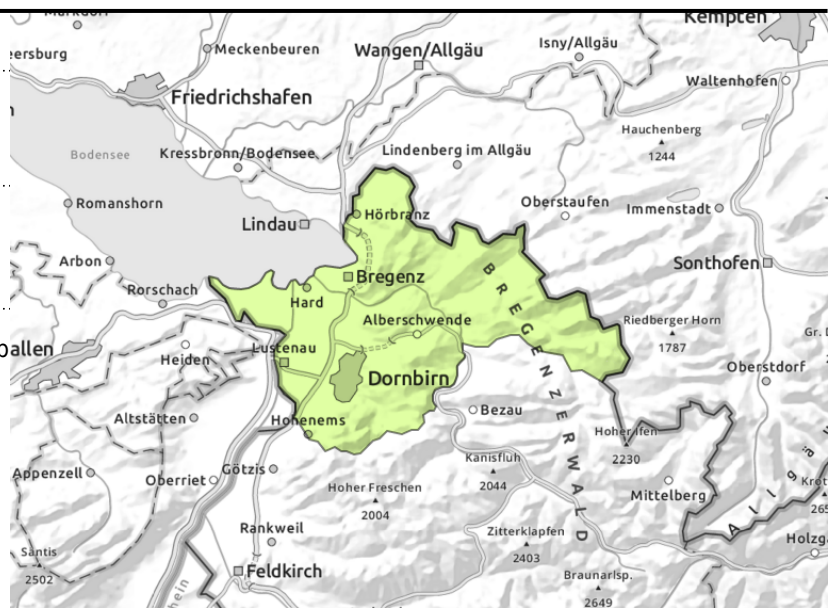
Voralpenbereich



moist slides



glide-snow avalanches on steep slopes
 smooth slopes



Main danger: wet-snow/glide-snow avalanches

Small-to-medium glide-snow avalanches are still possible. Caution urged below glide cracks. In very steep terrain, small loose wet-snow avalanches can be expected, these can also be triggered by 1 person in steep terrain. Danger of being swept along and being forced to take a fall should be taken into consideration.

Snowpack structure

At low and intermediate altitudes the snowpack is thoroughly wet down to the ground. Clouds passing through will hamper nocturnal longwave outgoing radiation, a crust capable of bearing loads cannot form easily. Warmth is making the snowpack weaker, esp. in wind-protected terrain. Warm ground and the wet snowpack base reinforce the gliding movements of the entire snowpack. Very little snow on the ground below 1400 m.

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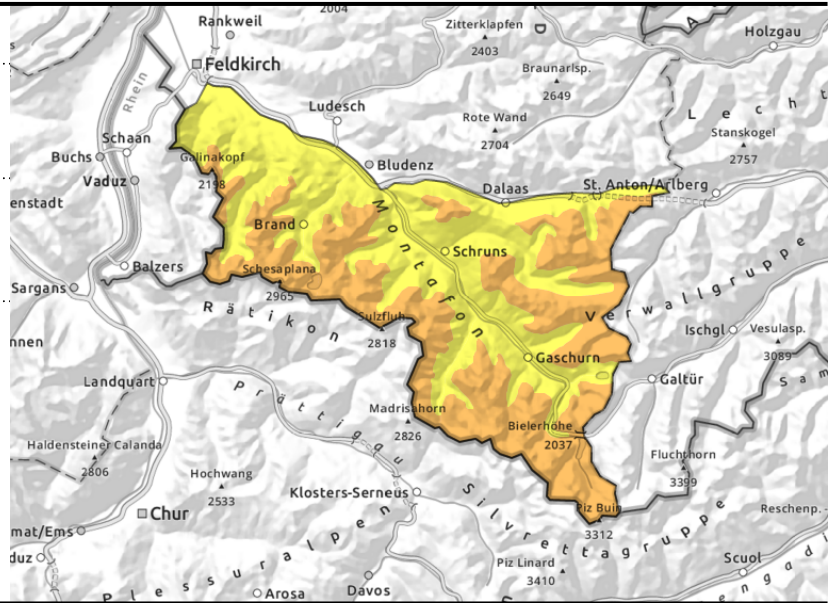
Rätikon West, Rätikon Ost, Silvretta, Verwall



>2000 m trigger-prone snowdrifts



<2400 m glide-snow avalanches on steep slopes with smooth ground, wet-snow avalanches



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Translated by Jeffrey McCabe, www.creativtrans.com

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