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National avalanche bulletin no. 89

from Saturday, 24 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Increase in Avalanche Danger

Current conditions

On Saturday in the west, in Ticino and on the northern flank of the Alps, it snowed a few centimetres above approximately 1500 m. In the east it remained dry, with foehn, and until midday was bright. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 2 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds prevailed, intermittently strong winds blew in the far west.
On northern slopes the bonding between the various snow layers is in part still prone to triggering through high additional loading. Due to the depth hoar in the snowpack fundament, surface-layer slab avalanches can break through to the ground and thereby attain high fracture depths. The surface layers are of highly variable structure. Where loosely bonded snow is on the surface or surface hoar has formed, the bonding with the fresh snow is weak.

Short-term development

On Sunday it will snow, initially in the west and on the southern flank of the Alps, later on in the north and the east. From Great St. Bernard to Chablais and in northern Ticino, 20 to 30 cm of new snow is expected. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in central Ticino, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall; in the remaining Valais, in the Engadine and southern Grisons, about 10 cm of snow is expected. Scarcely any precipitation is anticipated in northern and central Grisons, as well as in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps. The snow line will sink from 1500 m to approximately 1000 m. Moderate to strong westerly winds will prevail.
The new snow will drift and trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations will form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Chablais; Trient; Champex, Great St. Bernard:

Considerable Avalanche Danger (Level 3)

The danger level will be reached during the course of the morning. The avalanche prone locations are primarily in west to north to southeast-facing snowdrift slopes above approximately 2200 m. Slab avalanches can easily be triggered, although natural avalanches are unlikely.

Northern Alpine ridge not including Chablais and Trient; also Leysin, Pays d'Enhaut, Gstaad and Lenk; remaining Valais; northern Ticino; northern and central Grisons; Engadine; Bergell; Münstertal:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are in west to north to southeast-facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular. On the one hand, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack through high additional loading particularly in transitions from shallow snowpack into steep slopes, gullies and bowls. On the other, increasing snowdrift accumulations will form through the new snow and wind. These can easily be released. The avalanche danger will increase somewhat in the course of the day, especially in the west.

The remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps; central Ticino; Misox; Calanca; Puschlav:

Low Avalanche Danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are primarily in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls. Due to the anticipated new snow the avalanche danger will quickly increase to the level “moderate” during the afternoon.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will snow on the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1000 m, with north barrier effect. On Tuesday, it will snow primarily during the afternoon. In the south it will be predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger will increase on Monday particularly in the north.

Additional information: ‘Fax-on-demand’ (CHF 1.49/min.)
0900 59 2020 List of fax aids SLF
0900 59 2025 Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)
0900 59 2026 New Snow Map daily
0900 162 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss (CHF 2./min.)
Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss

Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min.)
0900 59 20 31 Central Switzerland
0900 59 20 32 Lower Valais / VD
0900 59 20 33 Upper Valais
0900 59 20 34 North and Central Grisons
0900 59 20 35 South Grisons
0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland
0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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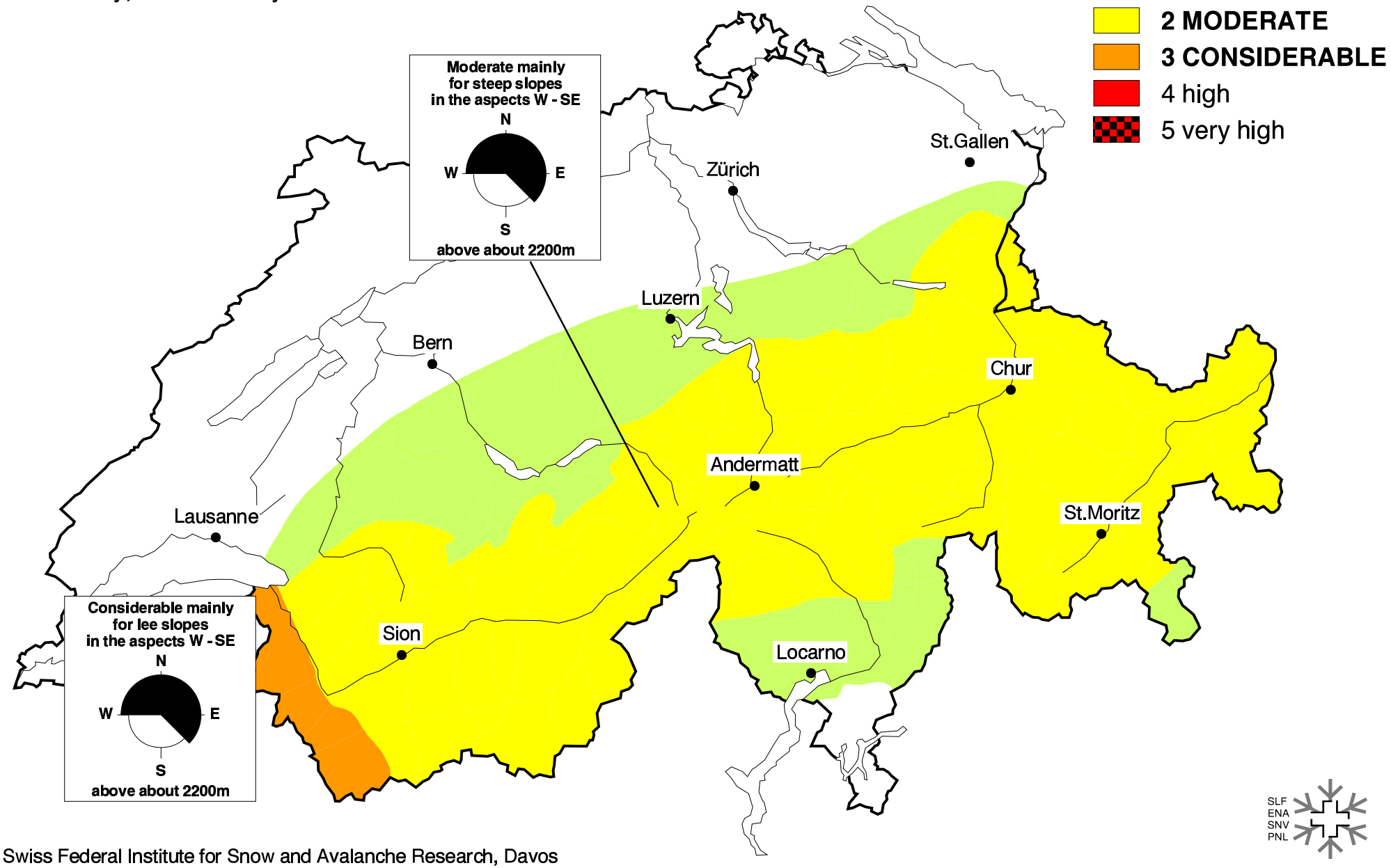
Avalanche danger forecast

Sunday, 25. February 2007



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