Eidgenössisches Institut für Schnee- und Lawinenforschung
Institut Fédéral pour l'Etude de la Neige et des Avalanches
Istituto Federale per lo Studio della Neve e delle Valanghe
Institut Federal per la Perscrutaziun da la Naiv e da las Lavinas

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National avalanche bulletin no. 91

from Monday, 26 February 2007, 18:30 hours

Widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Monday it continued to snow in most regions of the Swiss Alps. Since the snowfall started on Saturday morning, the following amounts have fallen: Vaud and Fribourg Alps, northern Lower Valais and the Champex and Great St Bernard regions 50 to 80 cm, remaining northern flank of the Alps and rest of Valais, as well as in the Gotthard region 20 to 40 cm, rest of northern Ticino, northern Grisons and Lower Engadine 10 to 20 cm, and remaining Grisons less than 10 cm. The snowfall level was approximately 1000 m. The wind was light to moderate, but strong in gusts, from the northwest.
The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on an old snow surface, which in some places comprises faceted and loosely bonded snow crystals or surface hoar. In other places the old snow surface consists of crusts or is icy. The bonding between the fresh snow and the old snowpack is poor in some places.

Short-term development

Initially snow will continue to fall on the northern flank of the Alps. During Tuesday a front without snow will arrive from the west. Until the snowfall ceases, the following quantities of fresh snow are expected: from the eastern Bernese Oberland to Alpstein 20 to 30 cm, rest of the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais and northern Grisons 10 to 20 cm, further south less than 10 cm. The northwesterly wind will blow moderate to strong, or even gale force at higher altitudes. It will transport large quantities of fresh snow.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; northern Surselva; northern Grisons; Lower Engadine north of the Inn:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps and western and northern Lower Valais, the avalanche prone locations are steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Slab avalanches can easily be triggered by a single person. Natural avalanches are also to be expected, some of which can be medium-sized. In these regions in particular, care and caution must be exercised by those engaging in backcountry freeriding activities.
In the remaining areas subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are chiefly wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can easily be released and are therefore to be avoided.

Remaining parts of Ticino, central Grisons and Engadine, and the Grisons southern valleys:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack, especially by large additional loads in transitions from a shallow snowpack into shady steep slopes, gullies and bowls. At the same time, generally small snow drift accumulations are forming, but the accumulations become larger at higher altitudes. They can be released easily and are to be avoided.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

The north will be unsettled with a strong westerly wind as milder weather returns. On Thursday heavy snowfalls are expected again in the west. The south can anticipate sunny intervals on both days. The avalanche danger is easing a little, but will increase again in some regions.

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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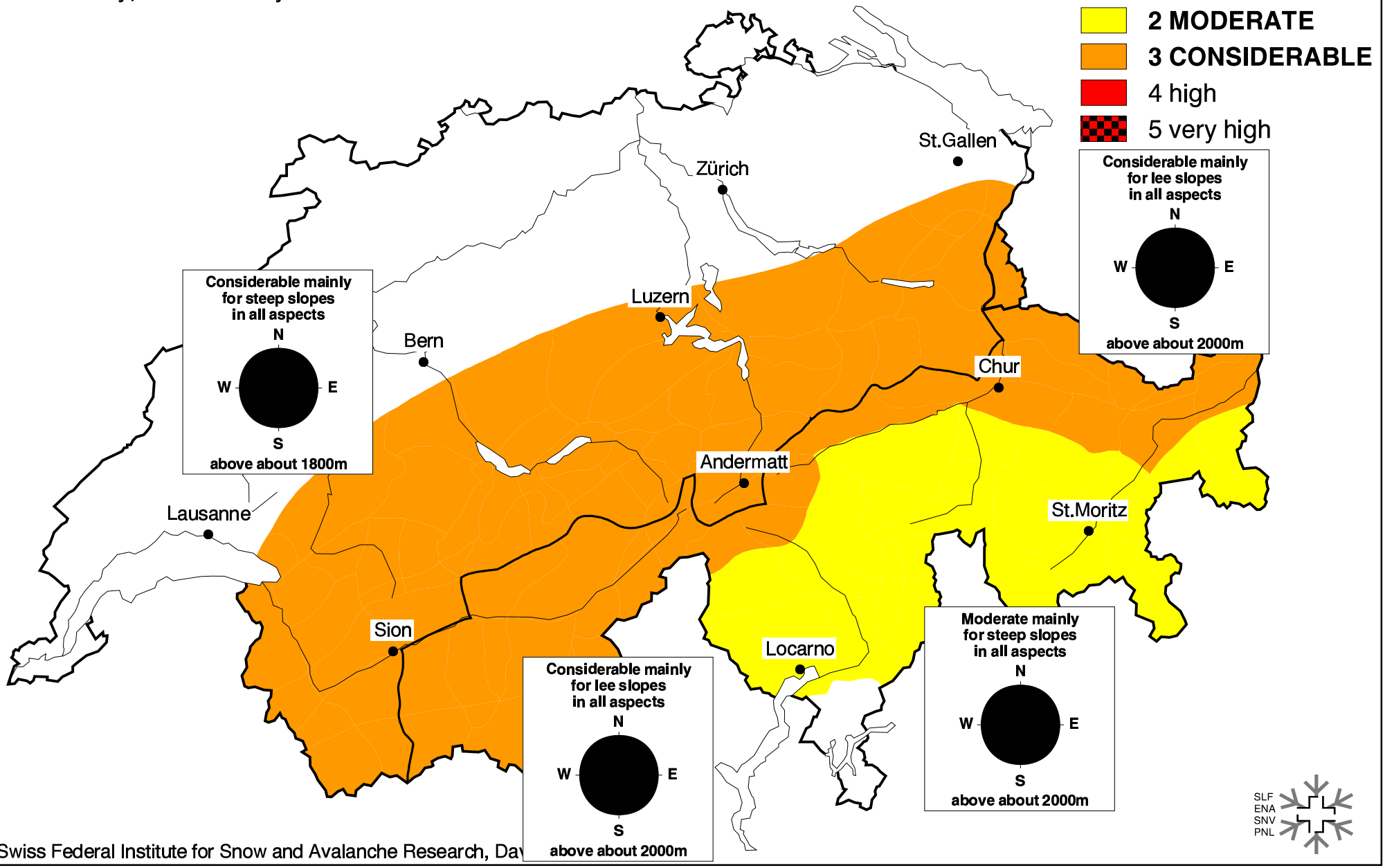
Avalanche danger forecast

Tuesday, 27. February 2007



Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Da