

National avalanche bulletin no. 21

for Thursday, 29 November 2007

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Exercise particular caution with older snowdrift accumulations

Current conditions

On Wednesday the weather in the mountains north of the main Alpine ridge was sunny and mild. On the southern flank of the Alps temperatures were much lower and the skies were overcast. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 4 degrees in northern regions, minus 7 in the south. Light, mostly southerly winds prevailed.

No fresh snowdrift has built up. The snowdrift accumulations from the beginning of the week which were formed by strong to stormy northerly and northwesterly winds have consolidated somewhat.

Short-term development

On Thursday it will be sunny in the mountains. However in northern regions temperatures will drop markedly, whereas in southern regions they will rise. Midday temperatures at 2000 m in all regions will be approximately zero degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds will prevail.

The old snow cover and the snowdrift lying atop it are bonding gradually, particularly in mid altitude zones.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Swiss Alps not including northern Prealpes:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

On the main Alpine ridge from the Gotthard region over the Bernina to the lower Engadine the avalanche prone locations are found on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In the eastern Bernese Oberland as well as the remaining central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealpes, additionally in the remaining regions of Grisons, in the western part of the main Alpine ridge from Great St. Bernard as far as the border of the Gotthard region, in northern upper Valais as well as in the remaining mountains of Ticino, the avalanche prone locations are found particularly in west to north to southeast facing gullies and bowls with snowdrift accumulations above approximately 2200 m. The accumulations of wind slab snow are sufficiently large in places to trigger avalanches which, particularly with high additional loading, can bury backcountry skiers and freeriders.

In the remaining western regions of this danger level the avalanche prone locations are found particularly in west to north to southeast facing areas adjacent to ridge lines, gullies and bowls above approximately 2400 m.

The older, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations can sweep skiers along and cause them to fall.

Northern Prealpes:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Clearly delineated snowdrift accumulations require critical assessment.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

Thursday night clouds will move in and a bit of snow is expected down to about 1200 m. On Friday it will be intermittently sunny again. On Saturday it is expected to be cloudy with further additional snowfall above approximately 1500 m and intermittently strong winds. The avalanche danger will remain unaltered.

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

Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss

0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

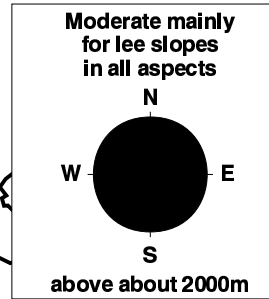
Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch

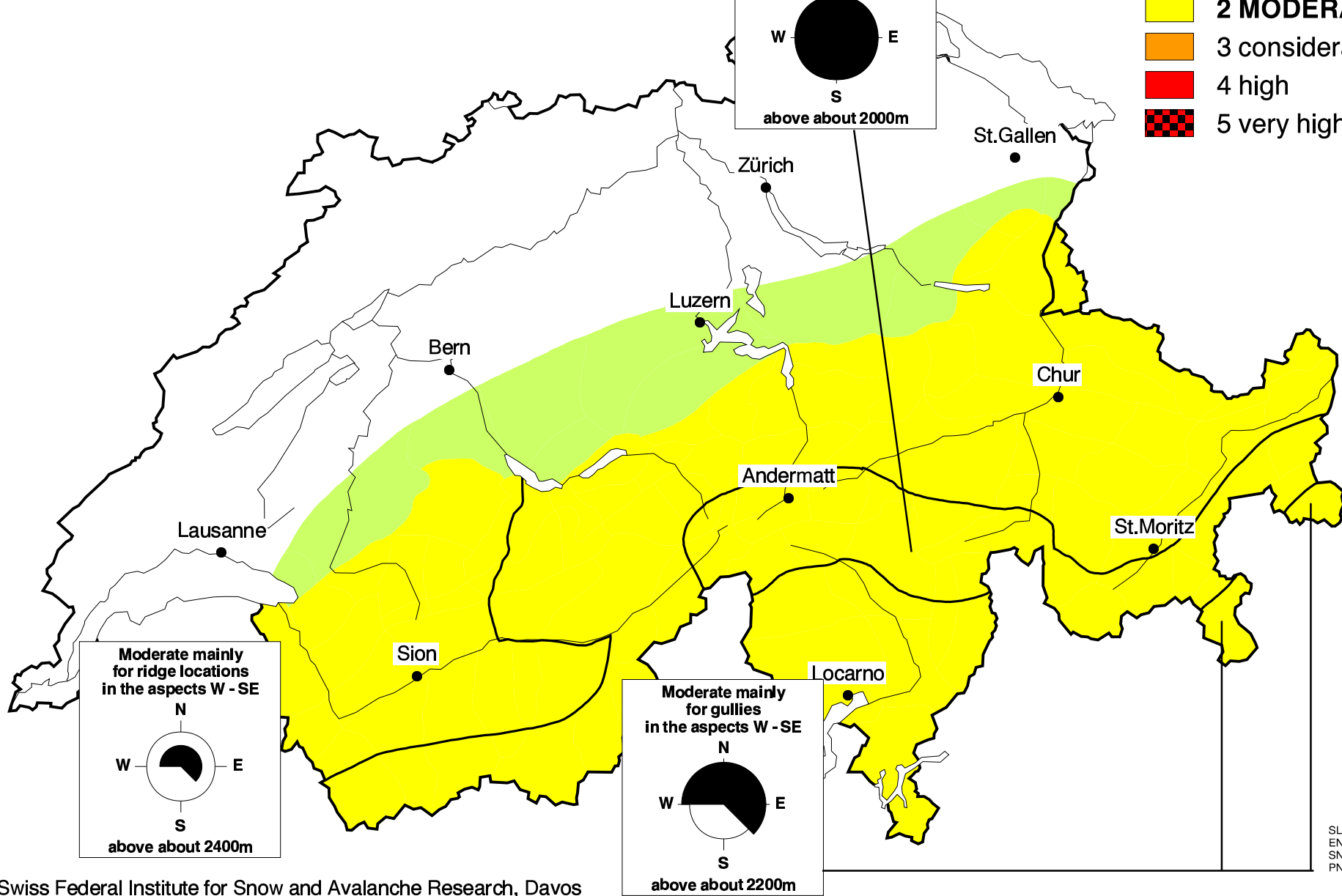
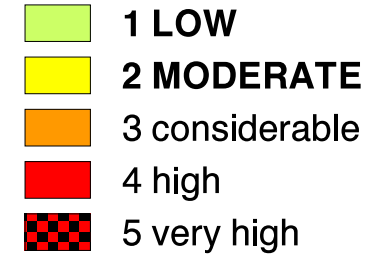
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

Thursday, 29. November 2007



Danger level



Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Davos

