

National avalanche bulletin no. 107

for Saturday, 23 February 2008

issue date 22.2.2008, 18:30 hours

Daytime increase of avalanche danger through solar radiation and warming

Current conditions

On Friday it was quite sunny in western and southern regions. In eastern regions it was overcast, with intermittent bright spots. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 1 degree in northern regions and plus 4 degrees in southern regions. Light to moderate westerly winds prevailed.

Inside the snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, faceted, poorly bonded layers are evident. On very steep, hardly used shady slopes, quite isolated avalanches can still be triggered in the snowpack of these areas. In the remaining regions the snowpack is generally quite well stabilised.

At 2000 m on flat fields of the northern flank of the Alps, there is 120 to 200 cm of snow. In southern Valais and in the Engadine, there is 50 to 80 cm, elsewhere 100 cm widespread. Thus, only in the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge do the snow depths attain average levels, elsewhere they are below average.

Short-term development

On Friday night it will be partly overcast in northern regions in particular. On Saturday it will be predominantly sunny with intermittent high altitude cloudbanks in northeastern regions. The midday temperature at 2000 m will climb to plus 5 degrees. Light to moderate westerly to northwesterly winds will prevail.

In northern regions in particular, the melt-freeze crust at the snow surface is only partly capable of bearing loads in the morning hours, due to the nighttime cloudiness. In the course of the day, the snow surface on sunny slopes will moisten and soften, losing its firmness.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, primarily on extremely steep shady slopes above approximately 2200 m, slab avalanches can still be triggered in the lower layers of the old snowpack.

In the remaining regions, isolated avalanche prone locations are found in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls in particular. In those places, even a sluff can sweep along backcountry skiers and freeriders and cause them to fall.

The hazards of wet avalanches will increase in the course of the day and reach the level Moderate (2) towards midday. In all regions, below about 2400 m, increasingly frequent superficial, moist and wet sluffs and small sized avalanches can be expected. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the wet avalanches can fracture down to the ground and in isolated cases attain medium size.

Full depth wet snowslides are more frequent. Completely apart from the time of day, full depth wet snowslides continue to be expected in western regions below about 2800 m, elsewhere below about 2400 m. Open glide cracks are indicators of this hazard. It is advisable to avoid areas with glide cracks or at least to depart quickly from these zones.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will be sunny and mild, with southerly foehn winds. On Monday it will be increasingly overcast and above approximately 1500 m in western and southern regions a bit of snowfall is expected. The avalanche danger will remain more or less unchanged.

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

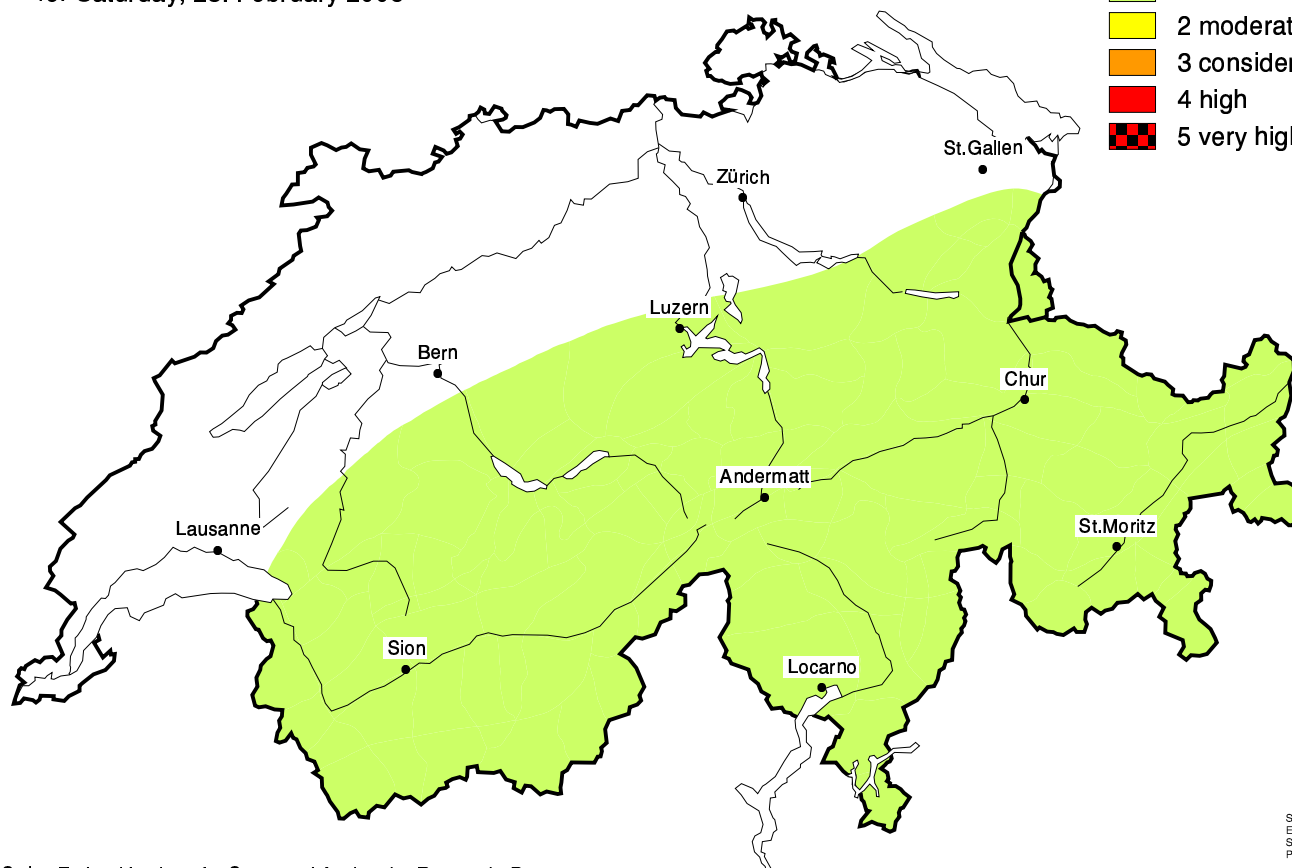
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 23. February 2008

Danger level

- 1 LOW
- 2 moderate
- 3 considerable
- 4 high
- 5 very high



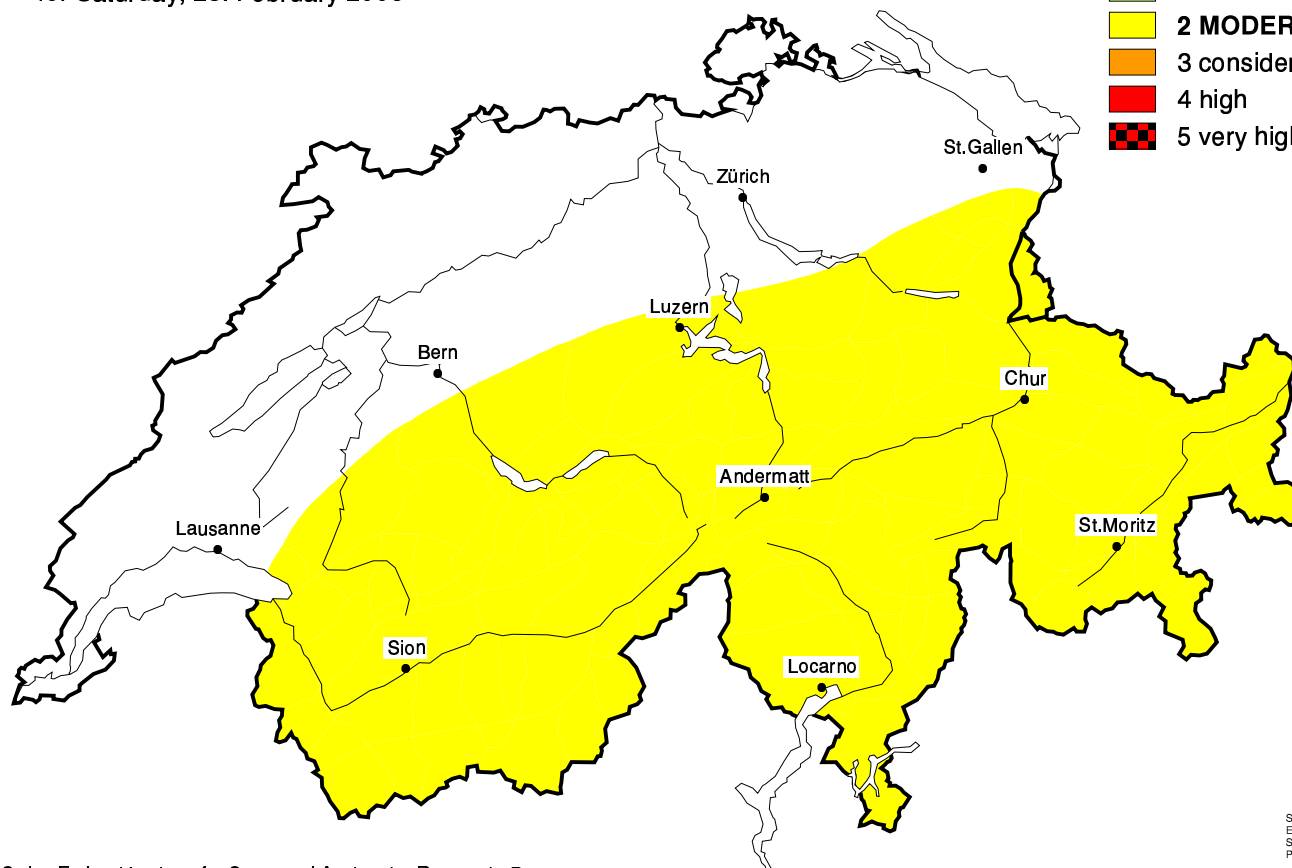
Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Davos

Danger for wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Saturday, 23. February 2008

Danger level

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- 2 MODERATE
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