

National avalanche bulletin no. 108

for Sunday, 24 February 2008

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Caution towards full depth wet snowslides and daytime cycle of wet avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Saturday it was predominantly sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 6 degrees in western regions and plus 3 in eastern regions. Light northwesterly winds prevailed.

Faceted, poorly bonded layers are evident in the snowpack in the inneralpine regions of Grisons. In the remaining regions the snowpack is generally quite well stabilised.

On south facing, medium altitude slopes in particular, the snowpack is melting off. The snow surface is moist on steep slopes up to altitudes of 3500 m. On shady slopes there is still loosely packed snow above altitudes of approximately 2200 m.

Short-term development

On Saturday night it will be clear and during the day on Sunday quite sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 6 degrees in northern regions, plus 4 degrees on the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof. Moderate to strong winds will shift to southwesterly.

On south facing slopes below about 3000 m, a melt-freeze crust capable of bearing loads will blanket the surface during the morning hours. This will soften up during the day and lose its firmness. Through the strengthening winds, small sized, local snowdrift accumulations will form in areas adjacent to ridge lines in particular.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

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 rise to the level Moderate (2). In all regions, particularly on steep sunny slopes below about 2800 m, 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.

The frequency of full depth wet snowslides has increased. 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. In isolated cases, exposed sections of transportation routes can be put at risk by full depth wet snowslides.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On both days it will be partly sunny in the morning and increasingly cloudy in the afternoon. Temperatures will drop noticeably. The danger of wet avalanches will recede.

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

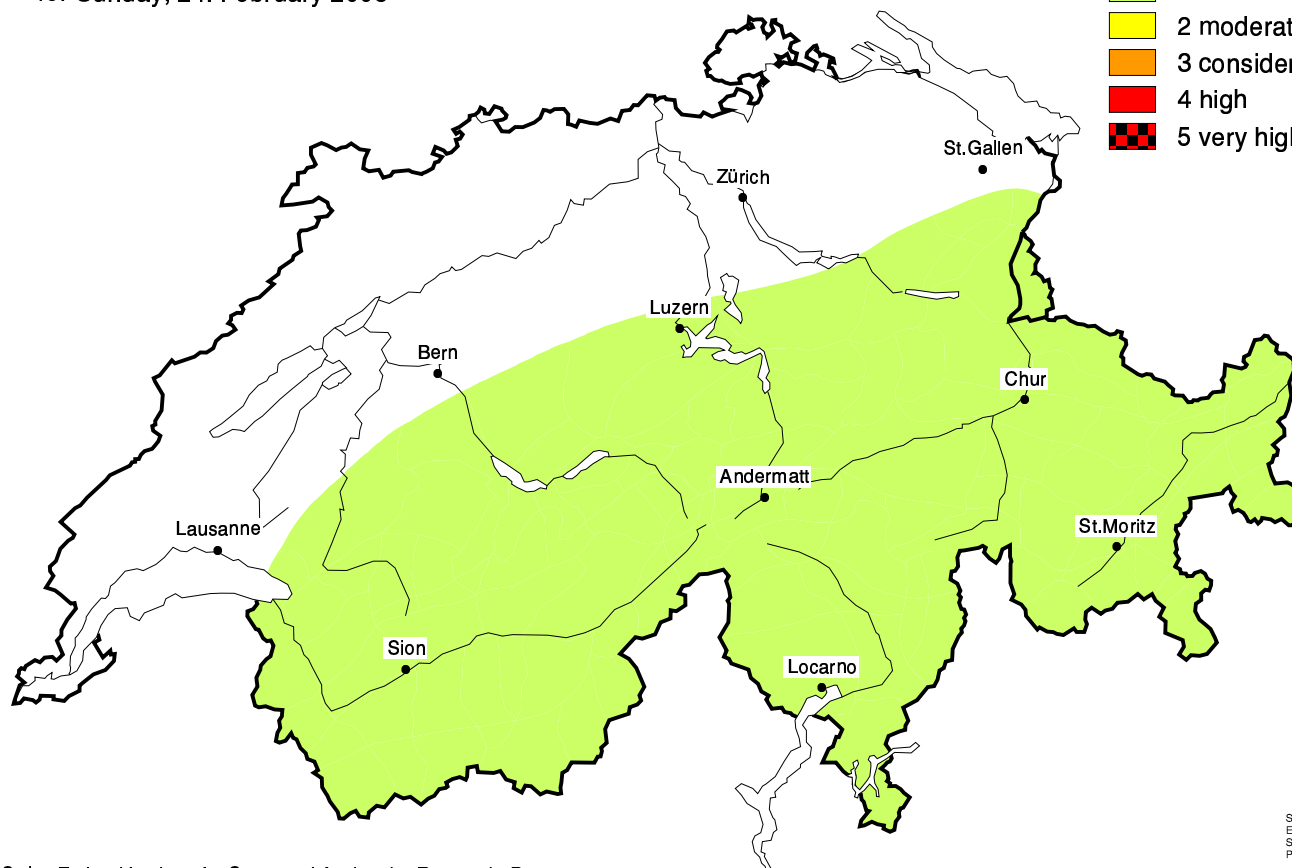
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Sunday, 24. February 2008

Danger level

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



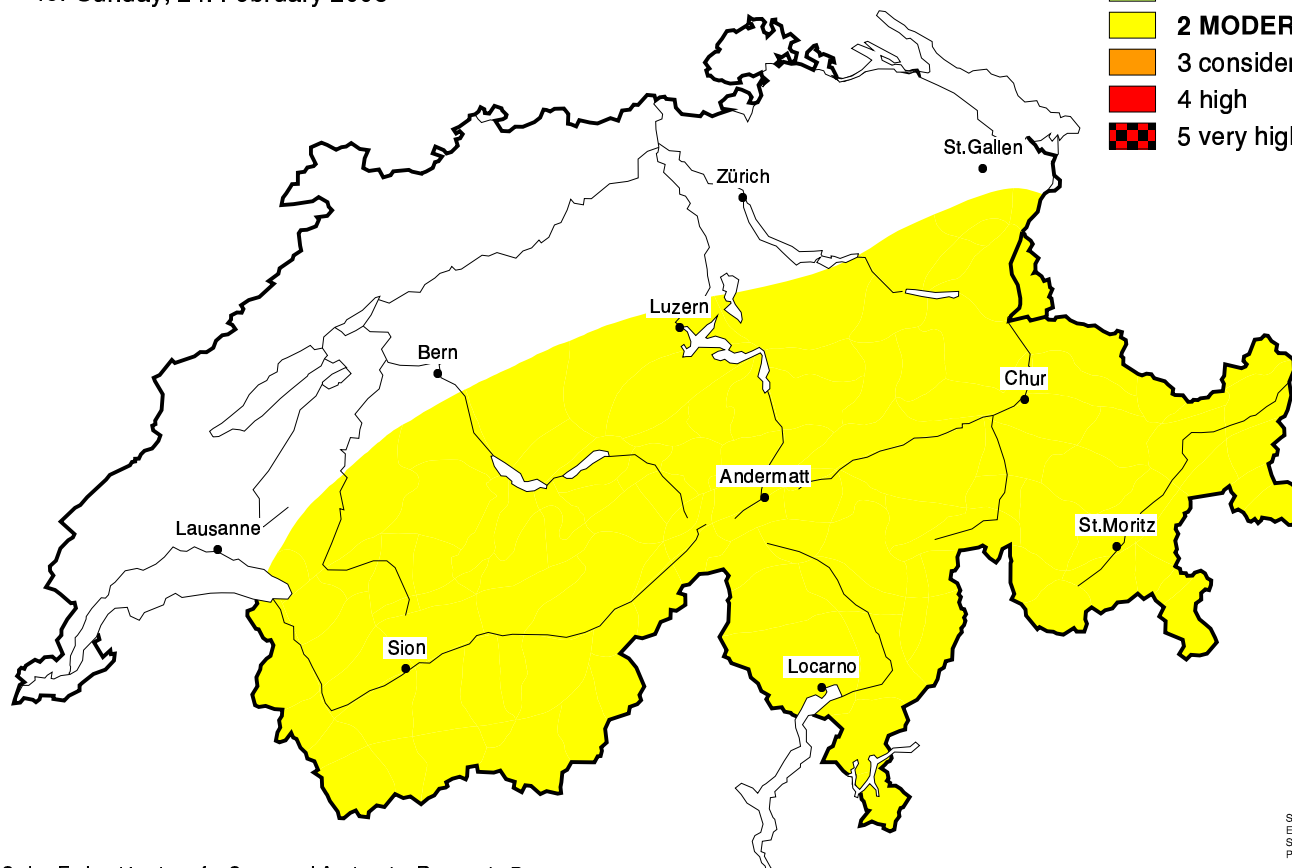
Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Davos

Danger for wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Sunday, 24. February 2008

Danger level

- 1 low
- 2 MODERATE
- 3 considerable
- 4 high
- 5 very high



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