

National avalanche bulletin no. 178

for Sunday, 4 May 2008

issue date 3.5.2008, 18:30 hours

Generally favourable backcountry touring conditions in the morning hours

Current conditions

On Friday night it was partly overcast in far northern regions, in the remaining regions it was clear. During the day it was predominantly sunny, with a buildup of cumulonimbus clouds in the afternoon. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 5 to plus 7 degrees. Light to moderate northwesterly winds prevailed.

In zones above approximately 2800 m, the snowpack on north facing slopes is still wintery dry. The entire snowpack is soft, thoroughly wet and prone to triggering on south facing slopes below about 2800 m, on north facing slopes below about 2400 m. It can stabilise somewhat during the night through the freezing of its uppermost layers. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, the snowpack fundament is weak widespread.

Short-term development

On Saturday night it will be predominantly clear and the outgoing long wave radiation will be good. During the day on Sunday it will be generally sunny. In the course of the day, cumulonimbus clouds will build up. Light to moderate northwesterly winds will prevail. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 7 degrees in western and southern regions, plus 5 degrees in eastern regions.

Through the daytime warming cycle and solar radiation, the snowpack surface crust will markedly soften and forfeit its firmness.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern Alpine Ridge; Main Alpine Ridge; Valais; Grisons:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on northwest to north to northeast facing steep slopes above approximately 3000 m in particular. Especially the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered as slab avalanches. These snowdrift accumulations are to be found particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and should be assessed critically.

Remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Low danger of dry avalanches (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are still to be found on extremely steep, north facing slopes.

The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase to the danger level "considerable" (3) in the course of the day. Below about 2800 m, particularly during the afternoon and in the early part of the night, wet snow avalanches can be expected in all aspects. Primarily in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, isolated large sized wet snow avalanches are also possible which can fracture the entire snowpack down to the ground. Backcountry ski tours, ascents to a hut and also hikes in the snow level zone should be completed sufficiently early.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

It is expected to remain generally sunny and warm. During the afternoon, cumulonimbus clouds will form and isolated showers cannot be ruled out. The danger of dry avalanches will continue to gradually recede. The danger of wet snow avalanches is subject to a well pronounced daytime cycle. In the morning hours of each day, favourable backcountry touring conditions will prevail.

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)

-- Central Switzerland
 -- Lower Valais / VD
 -- Upper Valais
 -- North and Central Grisons
 -- South Grisons
 -- Bernese Oberland
 -- 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

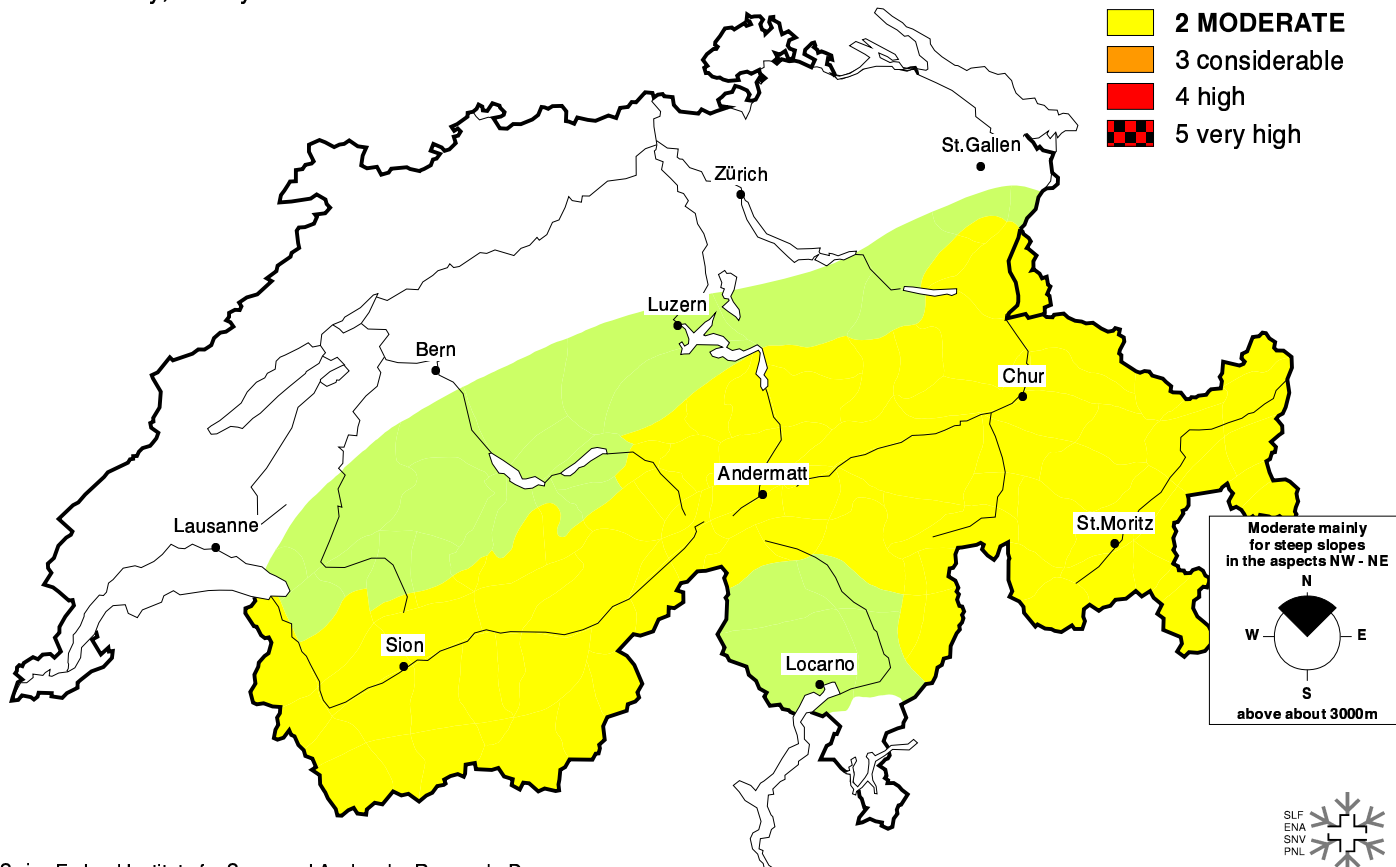
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 4. May 2008

Danger level

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



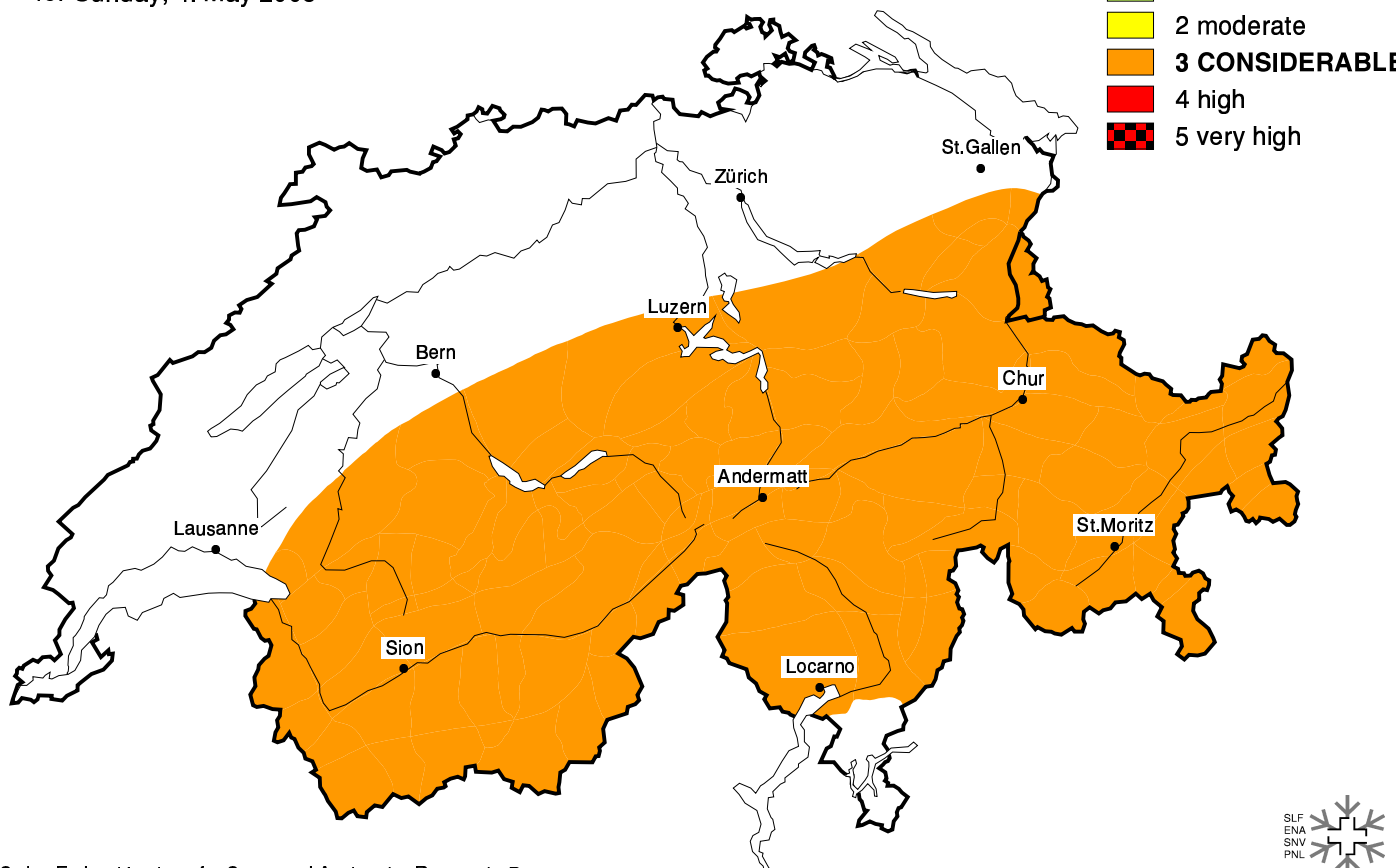
Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Davos

Danger for wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Sunday, 4. May 2008

Danger level

- 1 low
- 2 moderate
- 3 CONSIDERABLE
- 4 high
- 5 very high



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