

# National avalanche bulletin no. 31

for Friday, 5 December 2008

issue date 4.12.2008, 18:30 hours

## *Snowfall and strong to stormy southwesterly winds*

### Current conditions

On Thursday along the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Valais, a few centimeters of snow fell. In Grisons and on the southern flank of the Alps, the sun was shining during the morning. Elsewhere it was overcast. Midday temperatures at 2000 m in western and northern regions were minus 4 degrees, in eastern regions minus 2 degrees and in southern regions minus 6 degrees. Moderate to strong southwesterly winds prevailed.

Particularly in the Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the Engadine, fresh snowdrift accumulations formed.

### Short-term development

Starting on Thursday evening, it will begin to snow from the west. In western and northern Valais and in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, 20 to 40 cm of new snow is anticipated by Friday evening. In the remaining Valais and in the Bernese Oberland, there will be 15 to 30 cm of new snow, along the remaining northern flank of the Alps 5 to 20 cm of snowfall is expected. In the remaining regions, less than 10 cm of new snow is anticipated. The snowfall will be accompanied by strong to stormy westerly winds. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 5 degrees.

The already existing snowdrift accumulations are expected to grow markedly in size and frequency during the course of the day on Friday. The snowpack will become increasingly trigger sensitive.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps from the Vaud Alps as far as the Reuss; Valais; Main Alpine Ridge; northern Grisons not including Prättigau; in addition, central Grisons; Engadine; Puschlav:

*Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, in western and northern Valais and in Goms, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to south facing steep slopes and in areas adjacent to the ridge lines in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Natural avalanches are possible. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above 2000 m. In all regions of this danger level, even a single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger an avalanche.

Northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss; Prättigau; remaining southern flank of the Alps:

*Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. With increasing altitude as well as on north and east facing slopes, the avalanche prone locations become more frequent. Cautious route selection is imperative on steep slopes with freshly formed snowdrift in particular.

In all regions, but particularly along the southern flank of the Alps, full depth snowslides continue to be possible below about 2200 m on steep, grassy hillsides.

### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday, especially in western regions and along the northern flank of the Alps, further snowfall is expected. On Sunday, the snowfall will slacken off from the west. In southern regions it is expected to be predominantly sunny on both days. The avalanche danger will escalate slightly on Saturday. It is estimated that the avalanche hazards will gradually subside as of Sunday.

#### National avalanche bulletin as an MMS (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

Send an SMS with the corresponding key word to the speed dial number 162.

LAWINE overview of the keywords  
LAWCHD national avalanche bulletin (german)

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0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax  
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#### Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

LAWZCH Central Switzerland  
LAWBVS Lower Valais / VD  
LAWOVS Upper Valais  
LAWNGR North and Central Grisons  
LAWSGR South Grisons  
LAWBEO Bernese Oberland  
LAWEAN Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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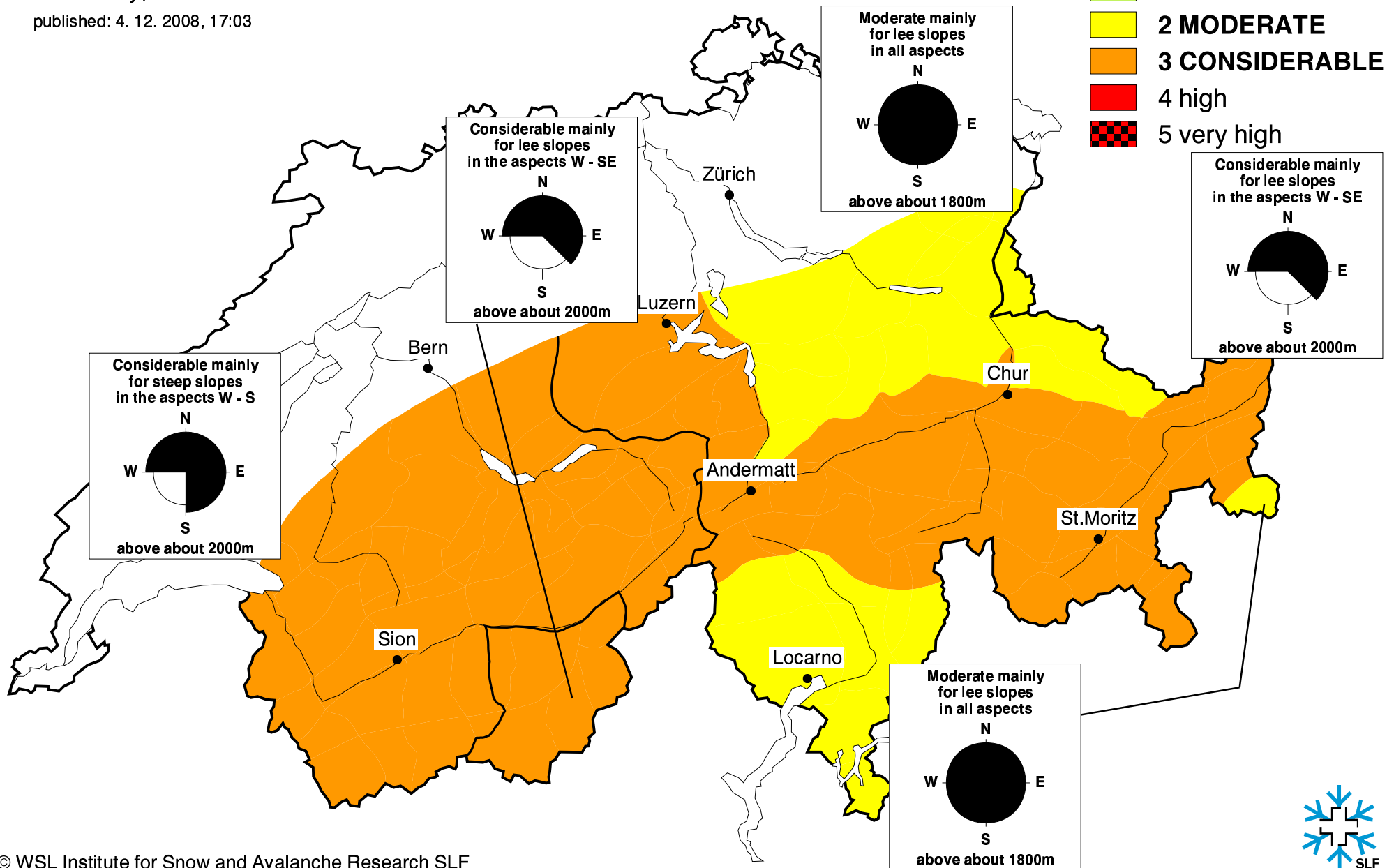
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 5. December 2008

published: 4. 12. 2008, 17:03

Danger level

-  1 low
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  4 high
-  5 very high








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 5. December 2008

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Danger level

-  1 low
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  4 high
-  5 very high

