

National avalanche bulletin no. 33

for Sunday, 7 December 2008

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A critical avalanche situation in western regions

Current conditions

Since Thursday evening in the Vaud Alps as well as in northern and western Lower Valais, there has been 70 to 100 cm of new snow. In the remaining Valais, in the Fribourg Alps and in the western Bernese Oberland there was 30 to 50 cm of snowfall, along the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in the Gotthard region, 20 to 30 cm. Further to the south and in Grisons, there was only a small amount of new snow. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 5 degrees. Moderate southwesterly winds prevailed, then shifted to westerly.

Through the snowfall and winds, snowdrift accumulations have formed which are prone to triggering. In the major areas of precipitation in western regions, these are massive.

Short-term development

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, an additional 15 to 30 cm of snowfall is expected. In the Bernese Oberland and in northern Grisons, 10 to 20 cm is expected, elsewhere less. On Saturday night, the snowfall will come to an end in western regions; in eastern regions by midday on Sunday. It will be predominantly sunny in the Valais and western regions during the day on Sunday, in eastern regions it will be overcast. Strong northwesterly winds will prevail and slacken off in the course of the day. In southern regions it is expected to be predominantly sunny, amid strong northerly winds. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 7 degrees.

The new fallen snow and snowdrift of recent days remain prone to triggering. Particularly on south and east facing slopes, new snowdrift deposits are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; central part of Main Alpine Ridge; central Grisons; Engadine not including Samnaun; in addition, Bergell; Puschlav; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, in the western Bernese Oberland and in Lower Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1600 m. A critical avalanche situation prevails away from secured ski runs. Isolated natural avalanches are still possible. Even a single backcountry skier or freerider can easily trigger avalanches. These can attain medium size.

On the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in northern Upper Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The new snow and snowdrift are easily triggered as avalanches. Experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards as well as extreme caution are imperative.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The more recent snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by single backcountry skiers and freeriders.

Northern Grisons; Samnaun; southern flank of the Alps south of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering and should be avoided.

In all regions, full depth snowslides are possible below about 2200 m on steep, grassy hillsides.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will be predominantly sunny, in western regions it is expected to be mild. On Tuesday, cloudbanks will move in from the southwest in the course of the day. However, it is expected to remain dry. The avalanche danger will recede.

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)

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 (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

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

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

Feedback information:

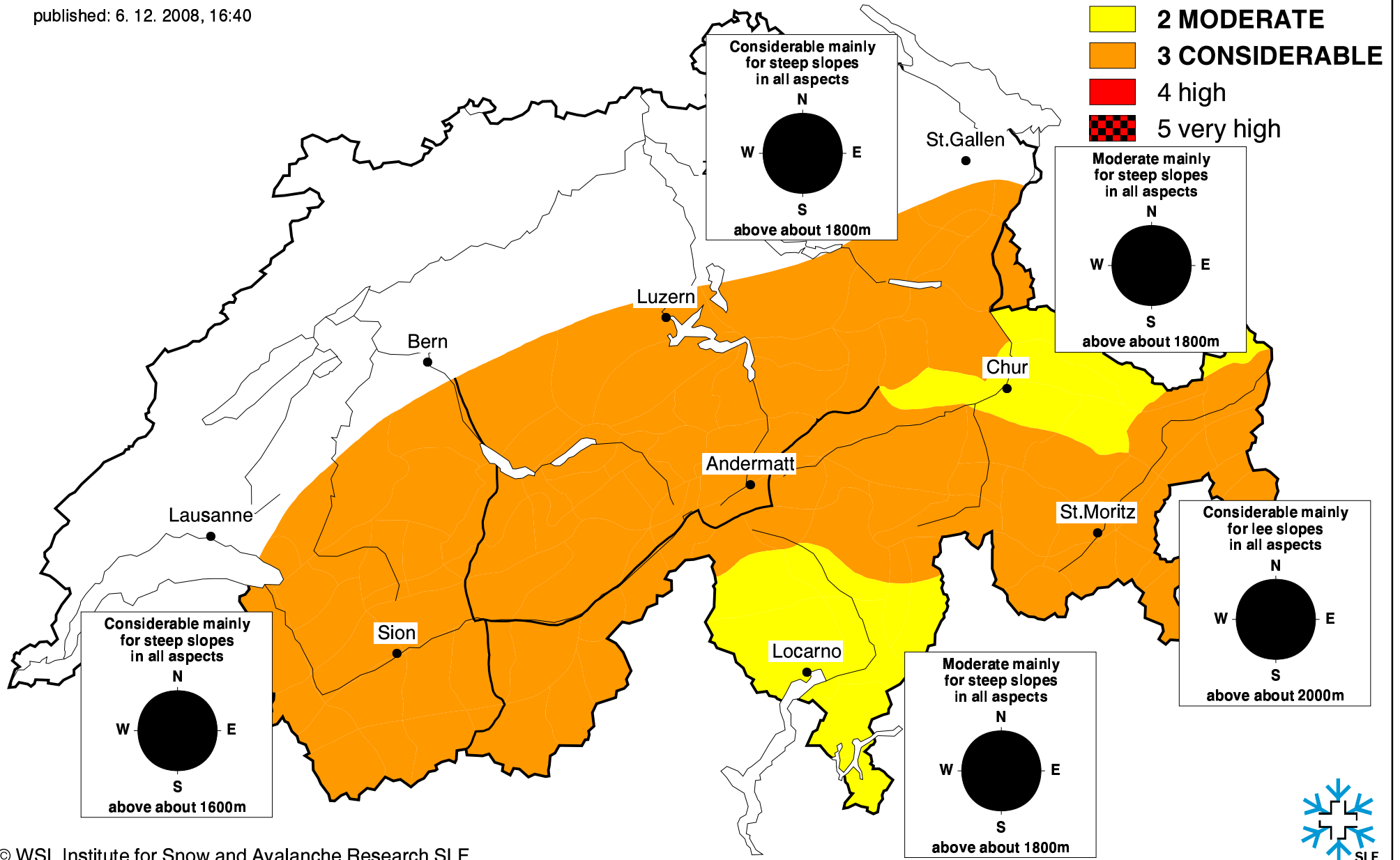
Email: lwp@slf.ch

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Danger level

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

