



National avalanche bulletin no. 39

for Saturday, 13 December 2008

issue date 12.12.2008, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

In western regions and in the Valais on Friday, the skies were bright. In the remaining regions it was overcast with light snowfall. From Tuesday until Friday evening along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Simplon region to the Bernina and south thereof, there was 50 to 80 cm of new snow, locally as much as 100 cm. From the valleys of Visp over Goms, the Grimsel region and central Grisons into the Münstertal, there was 30 to 50 cm of snowfall; further to the north and in western regions, 10 to 30 cm. Light to moderate northeasterly winds prevailed, in high alpine regions the winds were southeasterly. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 10 degrees in northern and western regions, minus 3 degrees in southern regions. In the major areas of precipitation, the massive layers of snow from the heavy snowfall of recent days are settling and consolidating increasingly well. In western regions, in central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine in particular, the thin layers of new snow cover over an old snowpack which is weak in places.

Short-term development

On Saturday in western regions and in the Valais, it will be quite sunny. In eastern regions the skies will become increasingly bright. In southern regions, about 10 cm of snowfall is expected by evening. Winds will shift to southerly. They will be moderate to strong at high altitudes, as of midday above 2000 m. The temperatures will increase markedly and by midday at 2000 m reach minus 2 degrees in northeastern regions and minus 4 degrees in the remaining regions. Through the southerly winds and the foehn influence in northern regions, snowdrift accumulations are expected to form in the course of the day which will become increasingly prone to triggering.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

Along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn into the Lower Engadine and south thereof, as well as in central Grisons and in the Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Especially the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be unleashed quite easily as avalanches. In central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine in particular, avalanches can also fracture down to the lowermost layers of the old snowpack. However, the expectation of large, natural avalanches has all but disappeared.

Along the remaining western parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in the remaining parts of Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Single persons can trigger avalanches, especially in freshly formed snowdrift, in isolated cases even down to the lowermost layers of the old snowpack. In the remaining central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m. In these regions, moderate avalanche danger will still prevail during the morning hours. The hazards will increase rapidly as the foehn winds set in.

Particularly on steep grassy hillsides in the regions with lots of snow, full depth snowslides can be expected.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday, renewed heavy snowfall is again expected in southern regions, particularly from the Simplon over the Gotthard region into the Maggia valleys. In eastern regions there will be bright skies due to the strong foehn winds, in western regions it will be overcast. On Monday it will be variably cloudy in northern regions. In southern regions, the precipitation will subside significantly. The avalanche danger is expected to escalate on Sunday in southern regions in particular.

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
(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>

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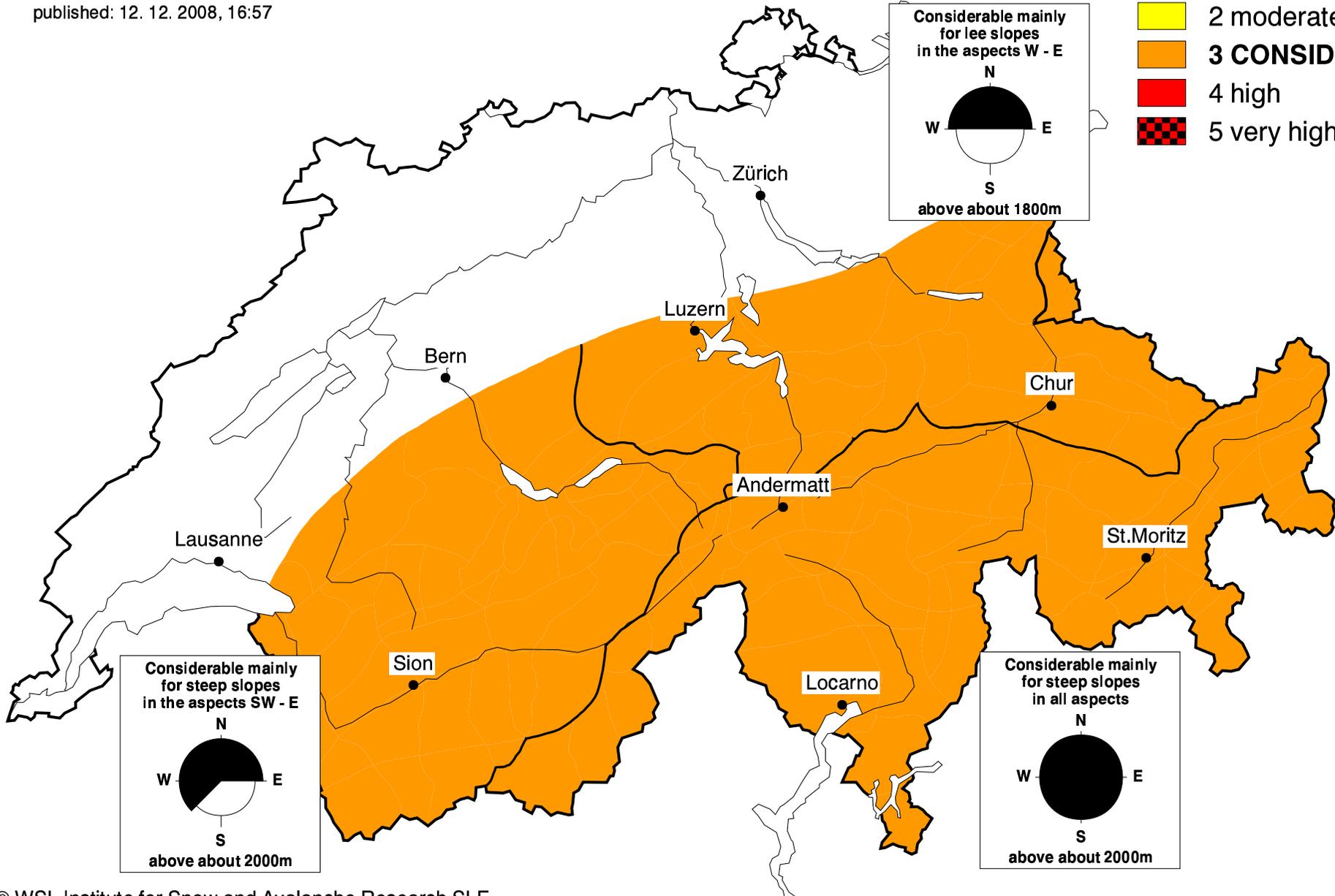
Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 13. December 2008

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Danger level

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



Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 13. December 2008

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Danger level

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

