

National avalanche bulletin no. 48

for Monday, 22 December 2008

issue date 21.12.2008, 18:30 hours

Amid mild temperatures, considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Sunday in southern Valais and along the southern flank of the Alps, it was predominantly sunny. In the remaining regions it was generally overcast. In the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons there was snowfall, particularly during the morning hours. The amounts of new snow since Thursday evening in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the Engadine north of the Inn River have amounted to 30 to 50 cm. In the eastern Bernese Oberland, in the central part of the northern flank of the Alps and in the remaining bordering regions, there has been 15 to 30 cm of snowfall. Further to the west and to the south, there was less than 15 cm of new snow. Particularly during the night, strong northwesterly winds were still blowing in high altitude regions, during the day today they slackened off somewhat. At midday, temperatures at 2000 m were minus 1 degree in northern regions and plus 4 degrees in southern regions.

At higher altitudes, the winds have exerted a great impact on the snowpack. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons, the new snow fell onto an old snowpack which evidences weak layers in places.

Short-term development

On Monday it will be predominantly sunny in western and southern regions. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and also in northern Lower Engadine, a bit of snowfall is expected during the afternoon. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be zero degrees in northern regions and plus 3 degrees in southern regions. Intermittently strong northerly winds will still be blowing at high altitudes.

The new snow from the weekend is settling increasingly well, due to the mild temperatures. The snowpack at intermediate altitudes and in lower lying areas is becoming more and more thoroughly moist.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Northern flank of the Alps east of Wildstrubel to Liechtenstein not including the western and central parts of the Prealps; in addition, Upper Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons excluding Val Calanca and Val Moesa:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the central sector of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons, in Lower Engadine and the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. 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 2200 m. Both new snow and snowdrift can be triggered by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and avoidance of snowdrift accumulations in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs are important.

Western and central parts of the Prealps; Vaud and Fribourg Alps; western Bernese Oberland; Lower Valais; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri; Val Calanca and Val Moesa:

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. Cautious route selection is essential. Snowdrift accumulations must be assessed especially critically.

In all regions, full depth snowslides can be expected below about 2200 m. Glide cracks are indicators of these danger spots. Wet snow avalanches below about 1800 m are also possible in the course of the day.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday and Wednesday in the mountains, sunny and mild weather conditions are expected. The danger of dry avalanches will gradually subside. The danger of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides will still continue.

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

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88






Avalanche danger forecast

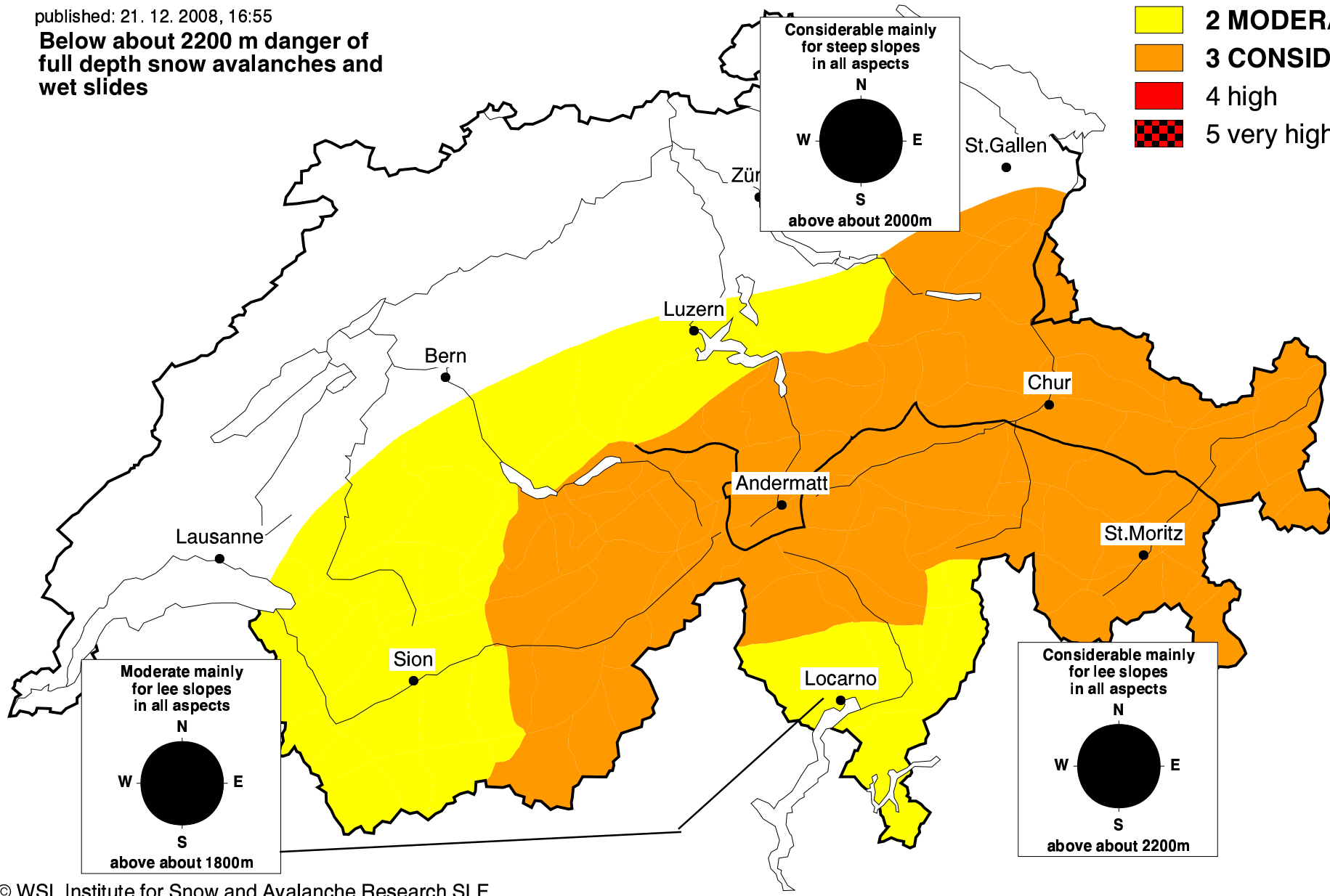
for Monday, 22. December 2008

published: 21. 12. 2008, 16:55

**Below about 2200 m danger of
full depth snow avalanches and
wet slides**

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 22. December 2008

published: 22. 12. 2008, 08:06

Below about 2200 m danger of full depth snow avalanches and wet slides

Danger level

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

