

## National avalanche bulletin no. 49

for Tuesday, 23 December 2008

issue date 22.12.2008, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable avalanche danger persists in some regions*

#### Current conditions

In the east and in Grisons on Monday, the weather was cloudy at times, but otherwise generally sunny. The northerly wind was moderate, but occasionally strong in the south. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about plus 4 degrees in the west, plus 1 degree in the east and plus 6 degrees in the south.

Up to approximately 2500 m, the snow surface is moist. At higher altitudes the snowpack has been substantially influenced by the wind. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular, weak layers exist in the old snowpack in some places. The likelihood of slab avalanches has decreased, but isolated avalanches, triggered either naturally or by people, still occurred on Monday. Numerous full-depth avalanches were released.

#### Short-term development

Tuesday will be mostly sunny. In the afternoon high-altitude cloudbanks will build up in the south and east. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will vary between plus 3 degrees in the west and south, and minus 3 degrees in the east. The northerly wind will blow moderate to strong at high altitude. In most cases, only small snow drift accumulations will form.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern Alpine ridge east of Wildstrubel; Upper Valais; Urseren; northern Ticino; Grisons excluding Val Calanca and Val Moesa:

##### *Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, in southwest to north to southeast facing aspects above approximately 2200 m. In the affected regions in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in Lower Engadine north of the Inn, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes; elsewhere they are to be found on wind-loaded slopes in particular. Avalanches can be triggered by a single person and some can reach medium size. For those venturing off piste, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps; Lower Valais, central and southern Ticino; Val Calanca and Val Moesa:

##### *Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations of recent days are to be avoided as far as possible. On north facing slopes in the inneralpine regions in particular, weak layers exist in the old snowpack. Careful route selection is important.

In all regions, full-depth avalanches are to be expected on south facing slopes below approximately 2500 m and elsewhere below approximately 2000 m. This danger is indicated by glide cracks in the snowpack.

#### Trend for Wednesday and Christmas Day

Wednesday will be sunny and mild in the mountains. Christmas Day will be cloudy at times in the east and south. The bise will cause the temperature to fall significantly. The danger of dry avalanches will continue to decrease. The danger of full-depth avalanches will initially remain unchanged.

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

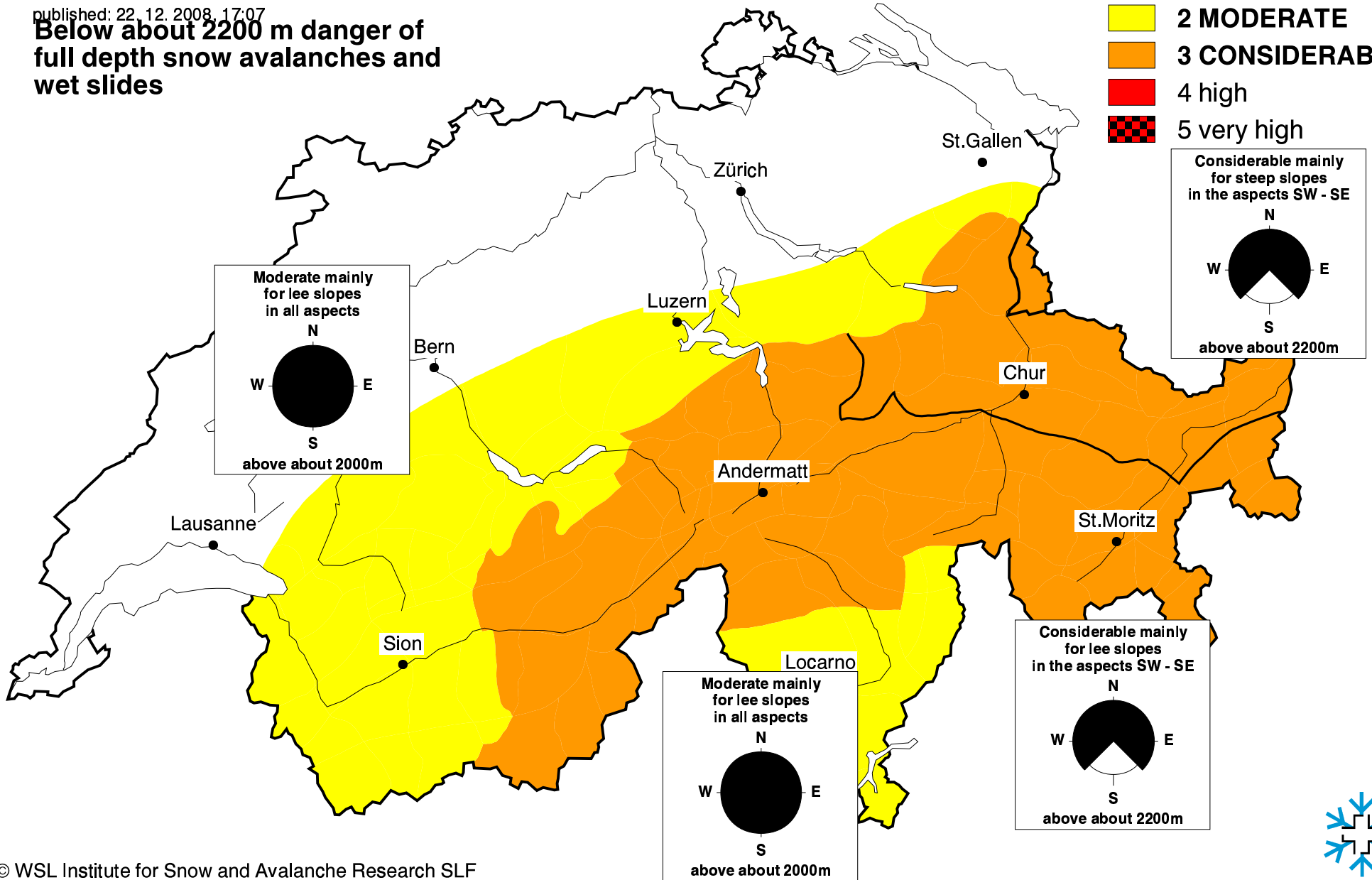
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**Below about 2200 m danger of full depth snow avalanches and wet slides**

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 23. December 2008

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## Danger level

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-  2 MODERATE
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-  4 high
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