

## National avalanche bulletin no. 50

for Wednesday, 24 December 2008

issue date 23.12.2008, 18:30 hours

***Moderate avalanche danger, full-depth avalanches remain possible***

### Current conditions

In the east and in Grisons on Tuesday, the weather was cloudy at times, but otherwise generally sunny. The wind from the north to northeast was moderate, but occasionally strong at high altitude. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about plus 5 degrees in the west, plus 7 degrees in the south and 0 degrees in the east.

At 2000 m the snow cover is 120 to 200 cm in the eastern part of the northern flank and on the southern flank of the Alps; over a wide area elsewhere it is 80 to 120 cm. In the north, the snow depths are slightly above average for the time of year. South of a line between the Rhone and Rhine, except in Lower Valais, the snow depths are well above average.

Under the influence of the relatively mild air temperatures, last weekend's fresh snow has settled and is mostly well bonded. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular, weak layers exist deep in the snowpack in some places. Numerous full-depth avalanches have been released below approximately 2200 m.

### Short-term development

Wednesday will be mostly sunny in the Swiss mountains. In the extreme east there will be some cloud in the afternoon. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between plus 4 degrees in the west and south and 0 degrees in the east. The strength of the wind will ease a little in the night. It will pick up during the day and become moderate to strong at high altitude, blowing from the north to northwest. Generally small snow drift accumulations will form adjacent to the ridge line.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2000 m. In the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, excluding the prealps, and in Grisons, they are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects. In the other regions, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. In very isolated cases, last weekend's snow drift accumulations can still be released by a single person. The prevalence of these avalanche prone locations increases with altitude. On north facing slopes in the inneralpine regions in particular, weak layers exist in the old snowpack in some places.

Careful route selection and spacing between individuals are important.

In all regions, full-depth avalanches are to be expected on south facing slopes below approximately 2500 m and elsewhere below approximately 2200 m. This danger is indicated by glide cracks in the snowpack.

### Trend for Christmas Day and Friday

Christmas Eve will be cloudy at times in the east and south, and a little snow will fall. Christmas Day will be mostly sunny. The bise will cause the temperature to fall significantly. On Friday, some snow will fall in the south, but it will be mostly sunny in the north. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly. On Friday it can increase slightly in the south.

#### 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](http://wap.slf.ch)

**Teletext:** Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

**Feedback information:**

Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)

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# Avalanche danger forecast

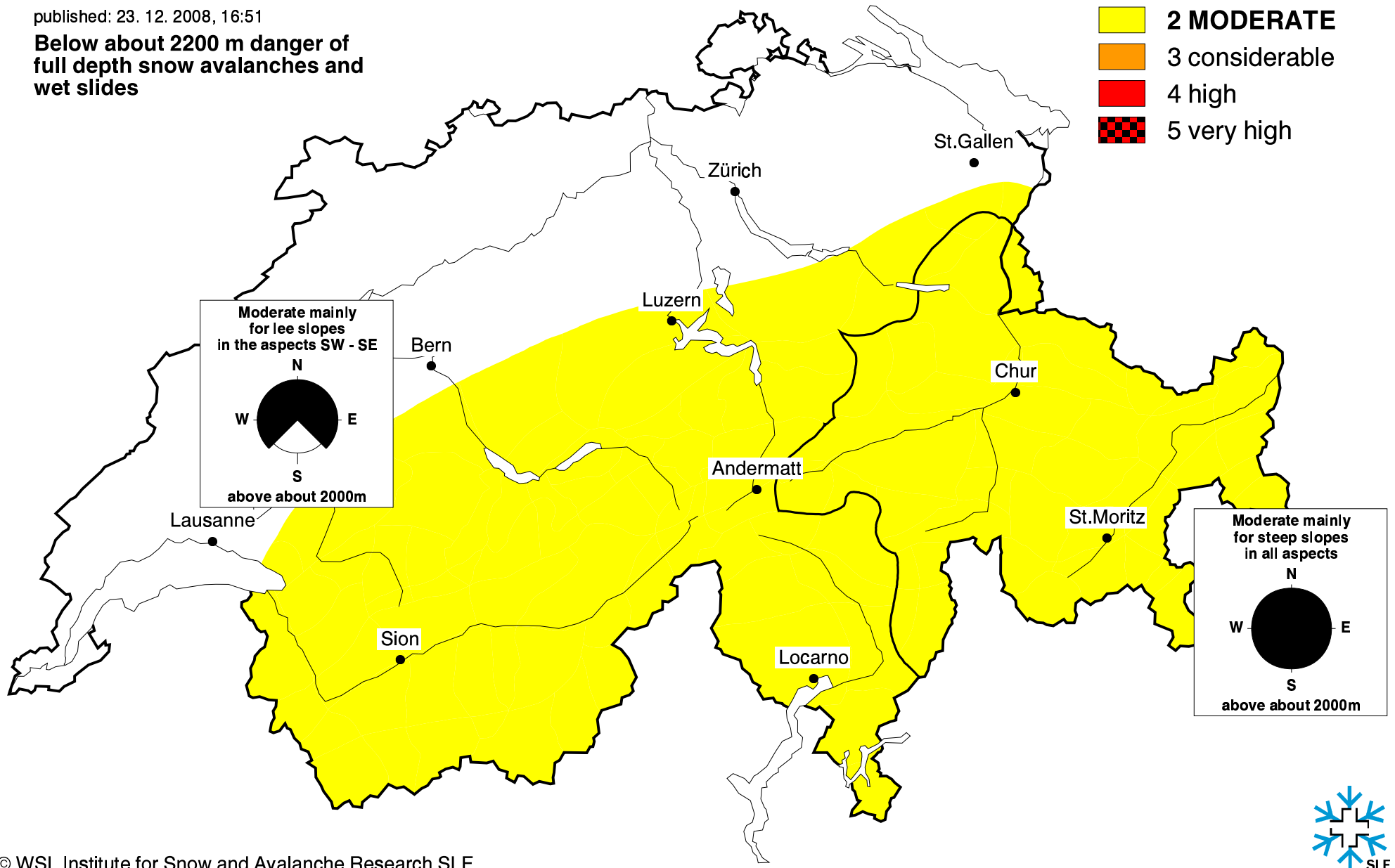
for Wednesday, 24. December 2008

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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








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for Wednesday, 24. December 2008

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wet slides**

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