

National avalanche bulletin no. 52

for Friday, 26 December 2008

issue date 25.12.2008, 18:30 hours

Amid stormy winds, increasing avalanche danger in the course of the day

Current conditions

During the night on Christmas Eve, up to 5 cm of snow fell widespread. On Christmas Day it was predominantly sunny in the Swiss Alps, in Ticino and in Upper Valais there were increasing amounts of sunshine. Light to moderate winds shifted to easterly-to-southeasterly, along the northern Alpine Ridge winds were moderate to strong. Through the shift in wind direction, temperatures dropped markedly. At 2000 m, the midday temperature was minus 5 degrees.

In areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in particular, small sized snowdrift accumulations have formed. Especially in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, the snowpack evidences weak layers in places.

Short-term development

On Thursday night along the Main Alpine Ridge from Monte Rosa into the Gotthard region and south thereof, 5 to 10 cm of new snow is expected. In the bordering regions, only a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated. In the areas of precipitation, the cloudiness will persist on Friday morning. Elsewhere, it will be generally sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will drop to minus 10 degrees. On Thursday night, easterly winds will gain in strength and reach strong to stormy wind speeds at high altitudes. Due to the winds, both new snow and the old snowpack will be transported in some places. Snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering are expected to form in the course of the day.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In central Valais, in central Grisons and in the Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes, elsewhere primarily on wind loaded slopes. The freshly formed snowdrift can be easily triggered in all regions. The snowdrift accumulations will be small sized to begin with, but will increase in size as the day goes on. The snowdrift accumulations will also become increasingly frequent with rising altitude. The avalanche danger is expected to increase in the course of the day, in high alpine regions as far as the level Considerable (Level 3). The freshly formed snowdrift should be avoided.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons in particular, avalanches can fracture down into the old snowpack in places. Prudent route selection is important.

In all regions, on south facing slopes below about 2500 m, elsewhere below about 2200 m, isolated full depth snowslides are possible. Glide cracks are indicators of the danger spots.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday and Sunday it will be predominantly sunny. The easterly winds will slacken off somewhat. In northern regions, temperatures will increase slightly. The avalanche danger will decrease incrementally.

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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

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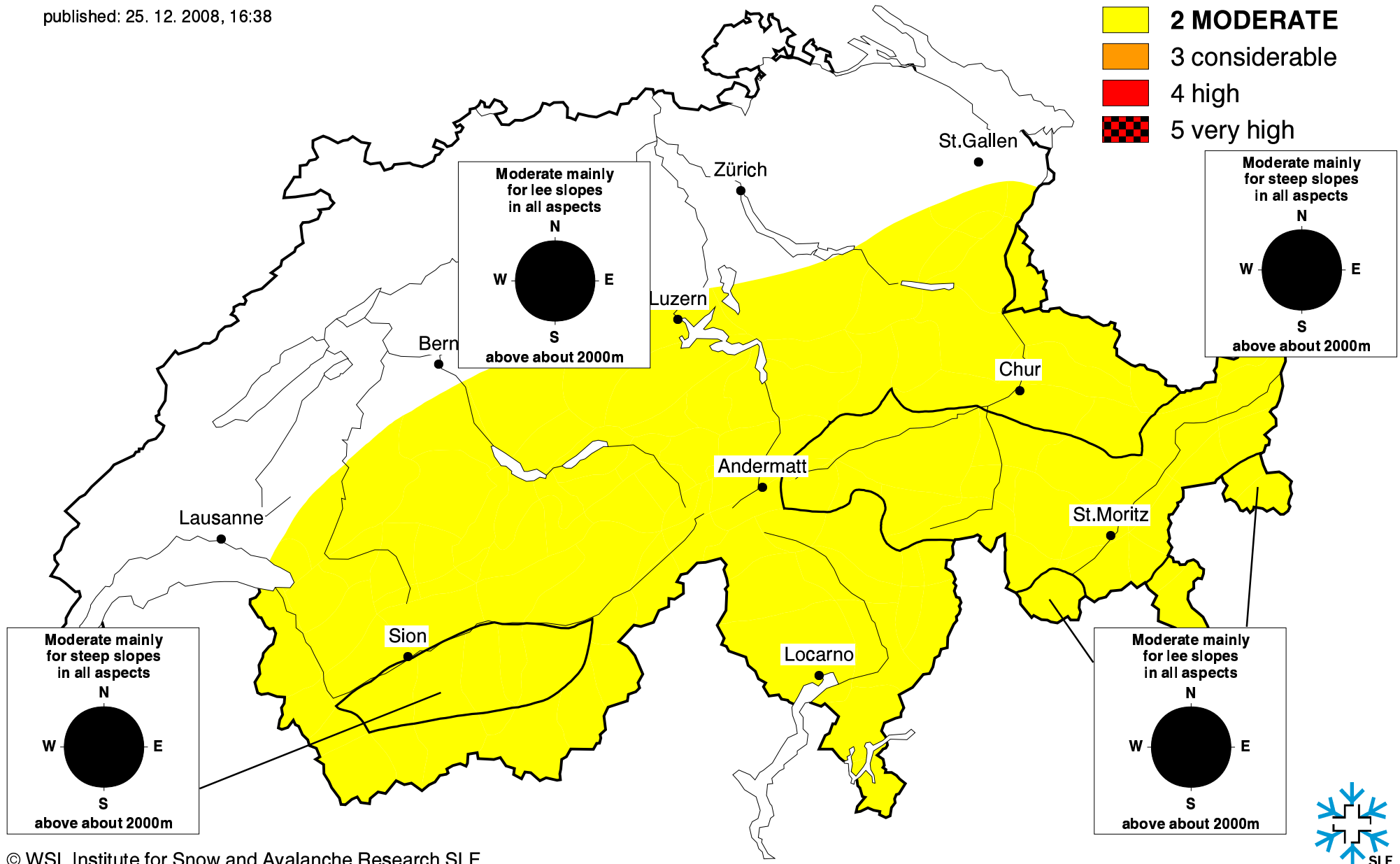
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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 26. December 2008

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Danger level

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

