

National avalanche bulletin no. 58

for Thursday, 1 January 2009

issue date 31.12.2008, 18:30 hours

Slight increase in avalanche danger due to new snow and winds

Current conditions

On New Year's Eve cloudbanks and precipitation moved in from the west. Only in far eastern regions did it remain relatively sunny well into the afternoon. In southern regions it was already overcast. In the Jura region there was 20 to 40 cm of new snow, in western Upper Valais about 10 cm, elsewhere less. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 3 degrees in northern regions and minus 5 degrees in southern regions. Moderate southerly winds prevailed.

The snowpack is favourably layered in general and without any particularly weak layers. The snow surface is extremely varied in its structure and composition. On the northern flank of the Alps and along the Main Alpine Ridge in particular, the snowpack has been heavily influenced by the winds and is blanketed by an icy crust in places. On the southern flank of the Alps in particular, the snow is loosely packed. Surface hoar is also evident, primarily on shady slopes and in wind protected places.

Short-term development

During the night on New Year's Eve and in the morning hours of New Year's Day, some snowfall is anticipated in all regions. On the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, 10 to 20 cm of new snow is expected, further to the south less than 10 cm. In southern and western regions, the skies will brighten up quickly afterwards and by afternoon increasing sunshine is expected in all regions. During the night, intermittently strong winds will shift to northerly. The new snow and, particularly in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps, also the loosely packed old snowpack will be transported. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 5 degrees in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions.

Avalanche danger forecast for New Year's Day

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects. Along the northern flank of the Alps and in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are found above approximately 1800 m, in the remaining parts of the Valais and Grisons above approximately 2200 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are small sized as a rule; however, they can be somewhat larger in the central sector of the southern flank of the Alps in particular. In places they are prone to triggering and should be avoided through carefully planned route selection.

Older snowdrift accumulations and, especially in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, isolated weak spots in the old snowpack as well can be triggered primarily by large additional loading. Caution is urged especially towards transitions from little to lots of snow.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On both days it is expected to be predominantly sunny, amid light to moderate northerly winds. Particularly on Saturday it will turn colder once again. The avalanche danger will gradually subside.

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

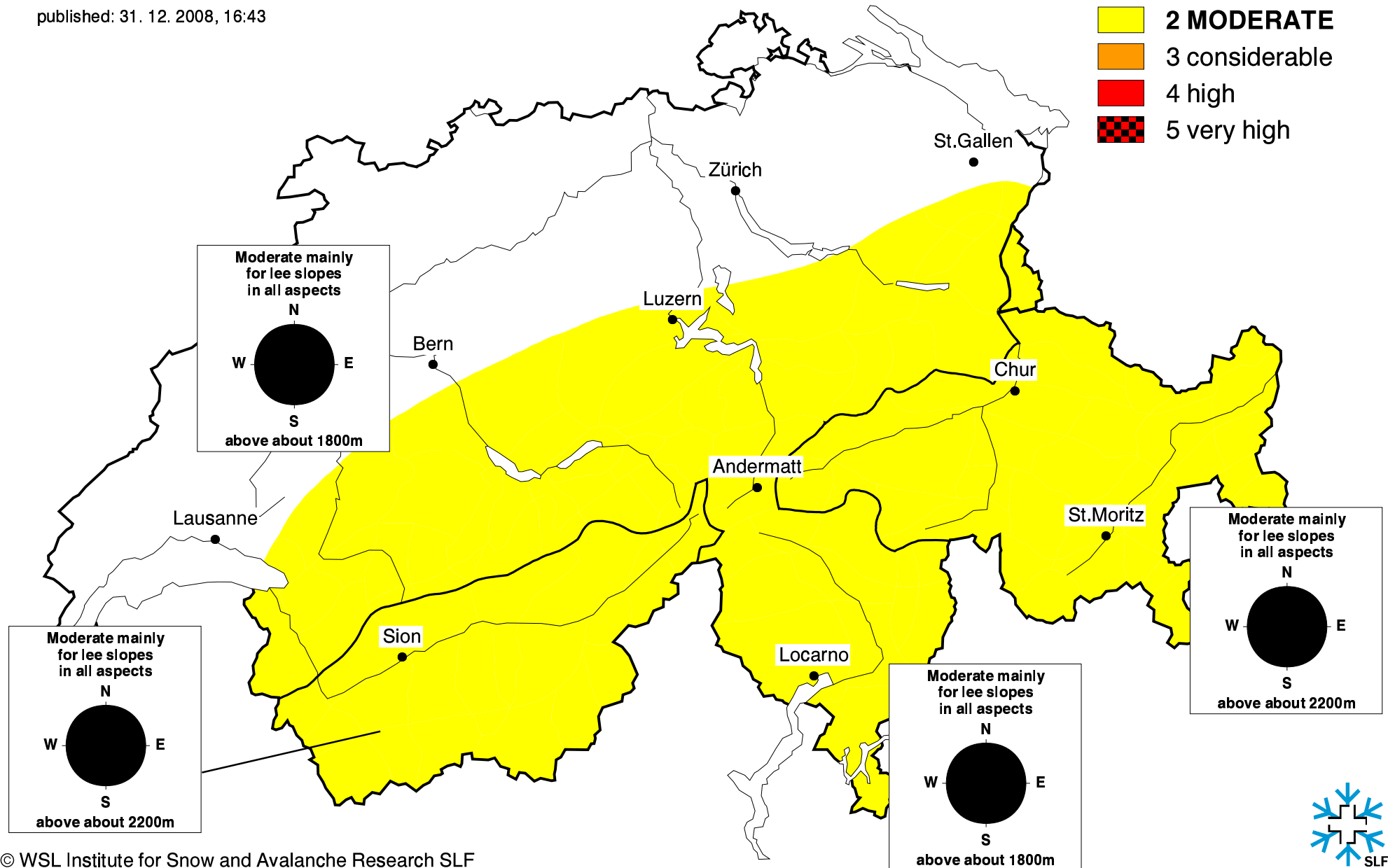
Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 1. January 2009

published: 31. 12. 2008, 16:43

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 1. January 2009

published: 1. 1. 2009, 08:09

Danger level

-  1 LOW
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 CONSIDERABLE
-  4 high
-  5 very high

