

## National avalanche bulletin no. 79

for Thursday, 22 January 2009

issue date 21.1.2009, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable avalanche danger*

#### Current conditions

On Tuesday night in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Surselva, there was 10 to 20 cm of new snow, elsewhere less. Since Sunday, 30 to 50 cm of new snow has thus fallen widespread; in far western regions, in the central sector of the northern flank of the Alps and south of the Inn River, up to 60 cm. The smallest amount of snow fell in southern Upper Valais, at 20 to 30 cm. On Wednesday, there were bright spells in western regions during the afternoon, elsewhere it was overcast. The midday temperatures in northern regions were minus 8 degrees, in southern regions minus 4 degrees. In the central and eastern sectors of the Main Alpine Ridge, moderate southerly winds prevailed, elsewhere the winds were light.

The snow depths in the mountains of Switzerland are above average for the season. New snow and snowdrift from the recent period of precipitation lie atop loosely packed, faceted old snow in wind protected and shady areas in particular. In addition, local surface hoar has been blanketed over by new snow in areas near the treeline. In these places, the bonding of new snow to old snow is still quite inadequate. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Lower Engadine in particular, the snowpack is loosely packed down to the ground in places and avalanches can fracture down to its lowermost levels.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday it is expected to be quite sunny. During the afternoon, high altitude clouds will move in gradually from the west. Light southwesterly winds will prevail initially, then rise to moderate strength during the afternoon. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees in northern regions, minus 7 degrees in southern regions.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

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

In the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1600 m. Isolated natural avalanches which can attain medium size are possible. The situation in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs remains critical for backcountry skiers and freeriders.

In the remaining regions, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Even a single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger an avalanche. The avalanche prone locations are often blanketed over in new snow, making them barely visible. However, whumpfung sounds and cracks in the snowpack are clear indicators of the danger. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, great experience in the assessment of avalanche situations is imperative.

#### Trend for Friday and Saturday

On both days, it is expected to be heavily overcast. New snow is anticipated, in western regions the snowfall will be heavy. The snowfall level will rise regionally to over 1000 m on Saturday. Strong westerly winds will prevail. The avalanche danger is escalating widespread, in western regions it is expected to increase markedly.

##### 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>

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

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

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






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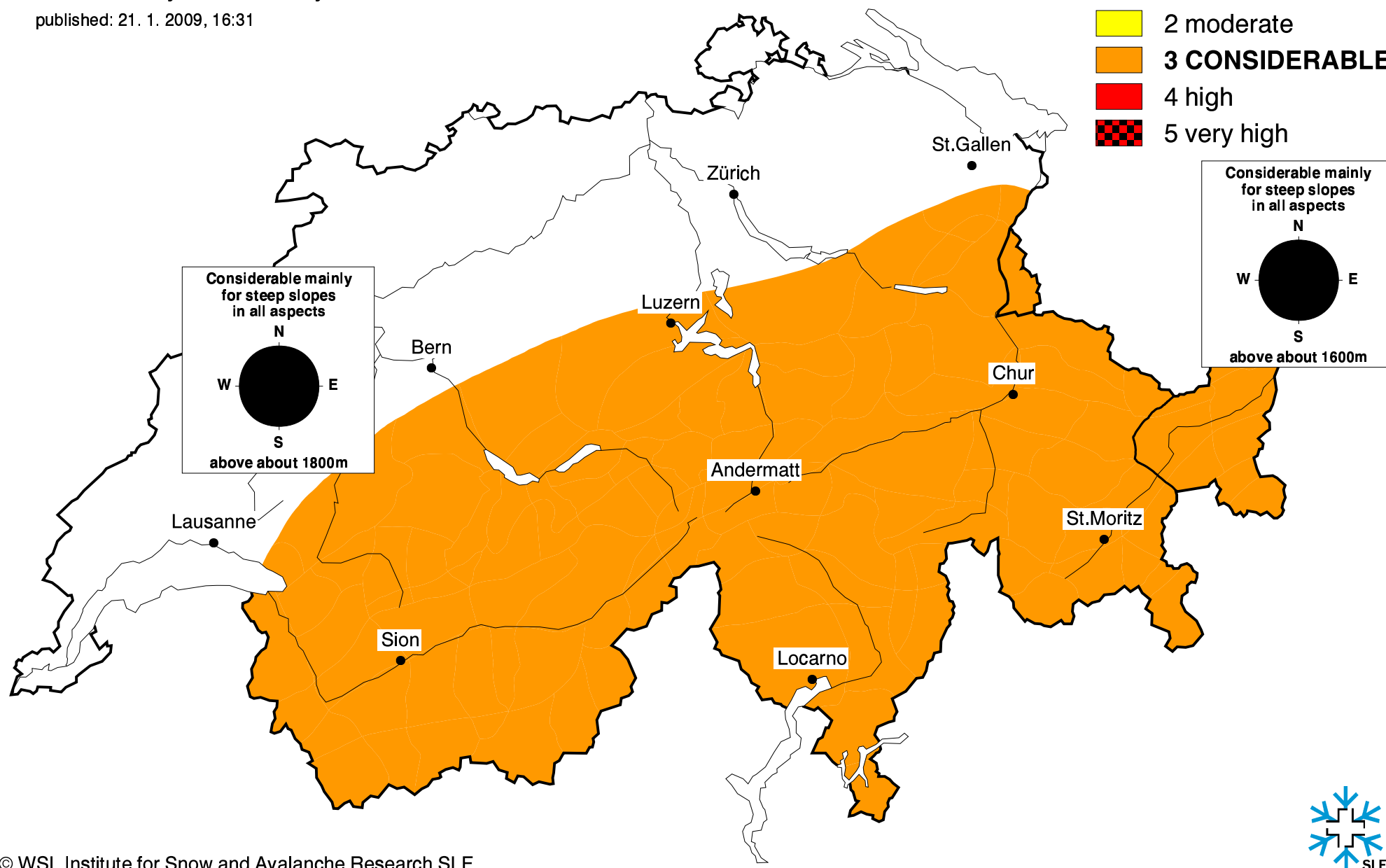
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 22. January 2009

published: 21. 1. 2009, 16:31

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 22. January 2009

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Danger level

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

