

National avalanche bulletin no. 82

for Sunday, 25 January 2009

issue date 24.1.2009, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Saturday morning some further snow fell in the west. The weather then became rather pleasant, as in the east and south. The wind eased considerably on Friday night; during the day it was weak to moderate from the southwest. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 3 degrees in the west and minus 7 degrees in the east. Since Friday morning, the following amounts of snow have fallen: western Lower Valais 40 to 60 cm; rest of Lower Valais, northern Valais and Goms 30 to 50 cm; elsewhere over a wide area 15 to 30 cm. From Ticino to central Grisons and Upper Engadine, less than 15 cm fell.

In all regions, extensive large snow drift accumulations formed on Friday. They are particularly prone to triggering in places that are protected from the wind and shady. In these locations, they are lying on loosely bonded, faceted old snow. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons and generally in areas close to the tree line, the snowpack is loosely packed down to the full depth in some places, and avalanches can penetrate deep layers.

Short-term development

On Saturday night, the strong northerly wind will give rise to fresh snow drift accumulations on the southern flank of the Alps in particular. During the day on Sunday, the weather will be mostly sunny and the wind will be light. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 2 degrees, but minus 6 degrees in the inneralpine regions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

All areas of the Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps, in Valais, the central part of the main Alpine ridge and in Grisons excluding southern Val Calanca and southern Val Moesa, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The avalanche situation is treacherous and subject to significant local variations. In particular, a danger exists in areas with a weakly bonded old snowpack that has been little used. In some places, avalanches can easily be triggered by a single person. In very isolated cases, natural avalanches can also still occur. Fresh snow drift accumulations will also form and be capable of being released easily.

These must be evaluated with care and prudence. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

In the regions south of the central part of the main Alpine ridge, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily and call for careful route selection.

In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps below approximately 2000 m, isolated wet snow avalanches are possible. Individual full-depth avalanches can occur in all regions.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday and Tuesday there will be varying amounts of cloud. A little snow will fall. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly, especially on south facing slopes.

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






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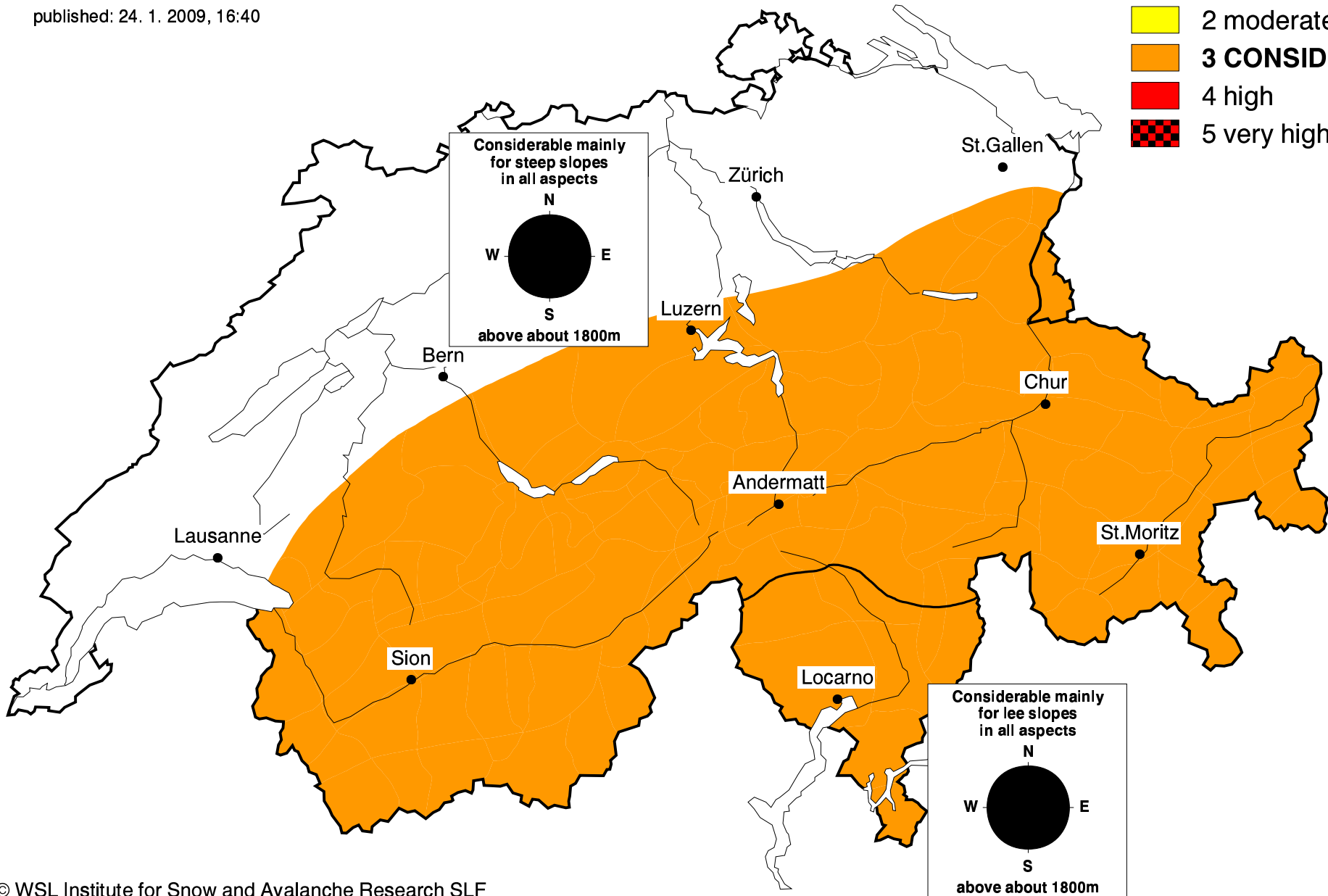
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 25. January 2009

published: 24. 1. 2009, 16:40

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 25. January 2009

published: 25. 1. 2009, 07:39

Danger level

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

