

National avalanche bulletin no. 85

for Wednesday, 28 January 2009

issue date 27.1.2009, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger decreasing only slowly

Current conditions

Tuesday was mostly overcast. Some bright spells occurred in the west and in Valais and Ticino. A little snow fell over a wide area. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 3 degrees in Ticino and about minus 8 degrees elsewhere. The wind was moderate from the northeast.

Especially adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas, fresh, mostly small snow drift accumulations have formed. Older, large snow drift accumulations are mostly covered with snow. They can still be released, in particular at transitions from broad ridges to gullies and bowls. The snowpack is particularly prone to triggering in places that are protected from the wind and shady. In the inneralpine regions in particular, 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. Whumpfung sounds and a penetration into deep layers in the snowpack are indicators of the weak snow layering.

Short-term development

On Wednesday morning, the residual cloud in the east will disperse. Otherwise, the weather will be mostly sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 2 degrees in the west and minus 5 degrees in the east. The wind will be moderate from the northeast.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps excluding the western prealps; also Valais; northern Grisons; central Grisons; Lower Engadine; Münstertal; Upper Engadine north of the Inn:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. The avalanche situation is treacherous and subject to significant local variations. Avalanche prone locations are more prevalent in the western regions than in the eastern regions. In particular, a danger exists on slopes with a weakly bonded snowpack that have been little used. In addition, fresh snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering have formed adjacent to the ridge line and in pass areas in particular. In some places, avalanches can easily be triggered by a single person. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection are required.

Western prealps; central part of the southern flank of the Alps; Upper Engadine south of the Inn; Bergell; Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Fresh, mostly small snow drift accumulations can be released easily and are to be avoided. Avalanches can still be released, also in deeper layers of the snowpack, especially by large additional loads. Good route selection and spacing between individuals are recommended.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday and Friday the weather will be mostly sunny and a little milder. The avalanche danger will decrease only slowly. The bonding of the snowpack will remain unfavourable, especially in the inneralpine regions.

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

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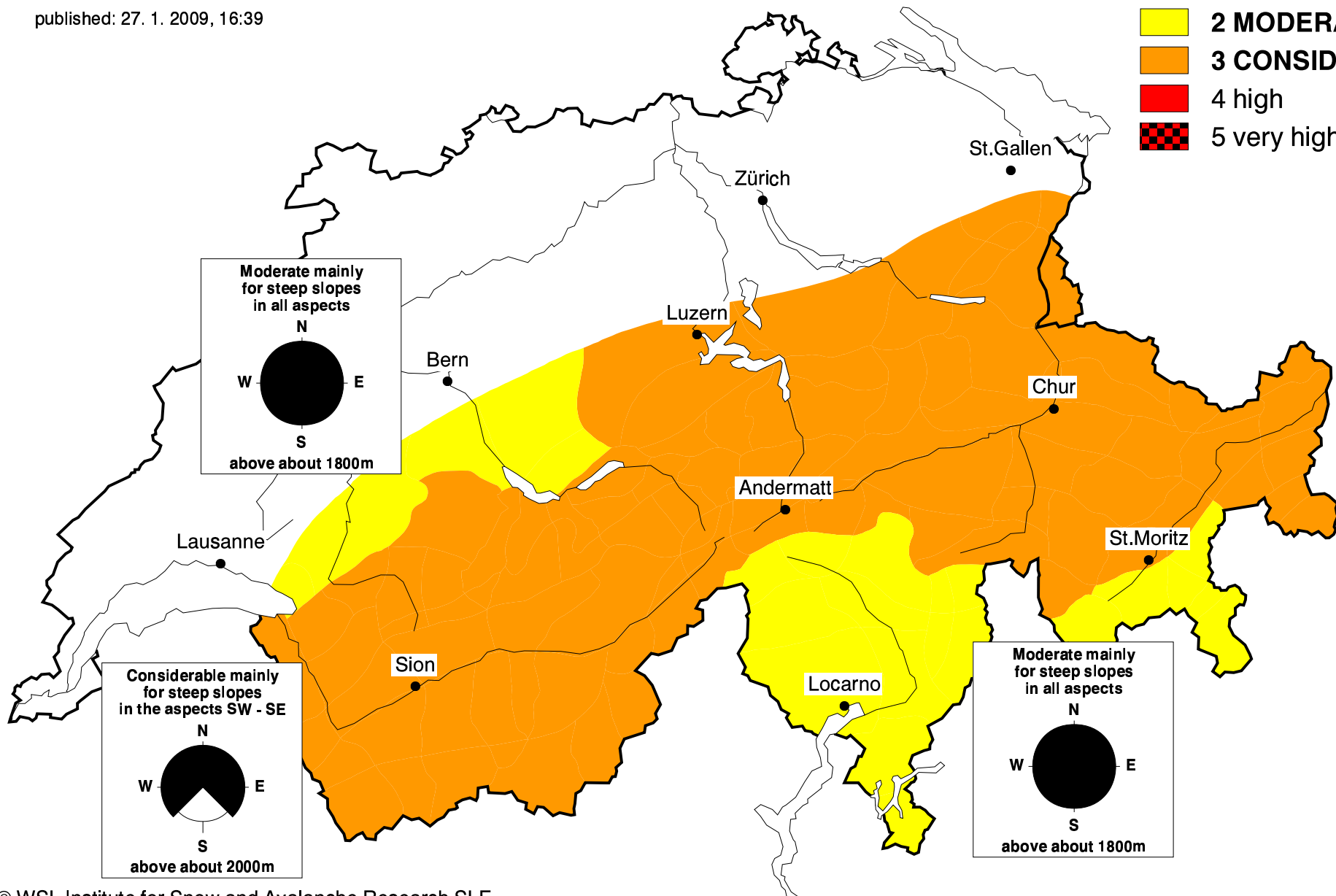
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Danger level

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








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