

## National avalanche bulletin no. 86

for Thursday, 29 January 2009

issue date 28.1.2009, 18:30 hours

### *Avalanche situation continues to be treacherous*

#### Current conditions

On Wednesday below about 2000 m it was overcast with high fog-like clouds down to the alpine valleys. Above that altitude in eastern and southern regions there were high cloudbanks. In western regions it was sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 2 degrees in Ticino, elsewhere minus 7 degrees. Light to moderate northeasterly winds were blowing.

The stability of the snowpack is highly varied even over small areas. The more recent snowdrift accumulations which are near the surface are stabilising incrementally. Especially in transition areas from broad ridges into gullies and bowls, avalanches can be triggered from the lowermost layers of the snowpack. In the inneralpine regions in particular, and in wind protected, shady areas and zones near the treeline in general, the snowpack is in places loosely packed down to the ground. Avalanches in those spots can fracture down to the very fundament of the snowpack. Whumpfung sounds and breaking through the snowpack down to its lowermost layers are indicators of weak snow layering.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday it is expected to be predominantly sunny in the mountains of Switzerland. In northern regions there will be high fog below about 1200 m. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be between minus 2 degrees in western regions and minus 4 degrees in eastern regions. Light easterly winds will prevail.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Western and central sectors of northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; in addition, Valais; northern Grisons; central Grisons; Lower Engadine; Münstertal; Upper Engadine north of the Inn River:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. The avalanche situation is treacherous and varies highly even over limited surface areas. In western regions, the avalanche prone locations are far more frequent than in eastern regions. Especially slopes with weak snow layering which have been seldom skied on are hazardous. In some places, a single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger an avalanche. Experience in the assessment of avalanche dangers as well as cautious route selection are essential.

Prealps; eastern sector of northern flank of the Alps; central sector of southern flank of the Alps; Upper Engadine south of the Inn River; Bergell; Puschlav:

##### *Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m. In the indicated regions along the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine, particularly the recent snowdrift accumulations found in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects must be assessed critically. Primarily through large additional loading, avalanches can still be triggered even from the lowermost layers of the snowpack. Prudent route selection and maintaining distance between persons to relieve loads are recommended.

#### Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday and on Saturday it is expected to be predominantly sunny and mild, apart from the high fog in northern regions. The avalanche danger will diminish only gradually. Particularly in the inneralpine regions, the snow layering is expected to remain unfavourable.

##### 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](http://wap.slf.ch)

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

##### Feedback information:

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






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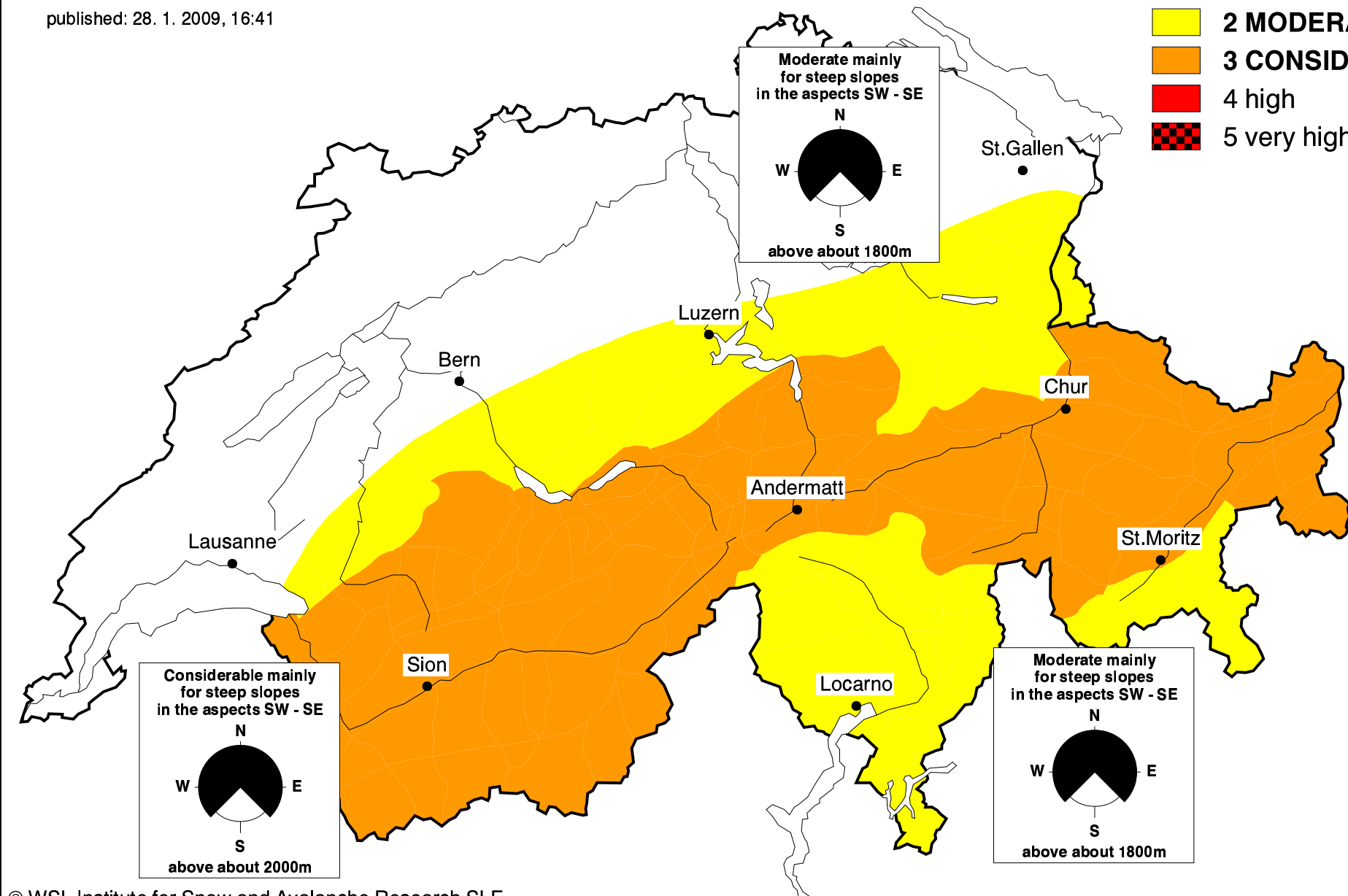
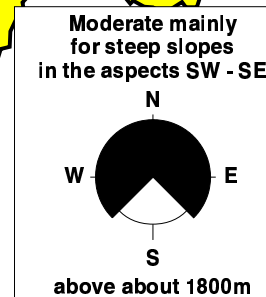
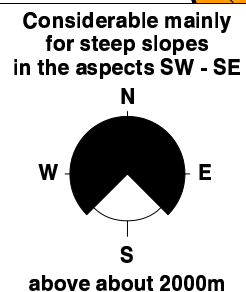
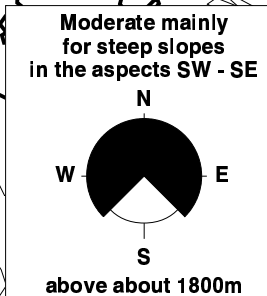
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 29. January 2009

published: 28. 1. 2009, 16:41

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 29. January 2009

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Danger level

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

