

National avalanche bulletin no. 88

for Saturday, 31 January 2009

issue date 30.1.2009, 18:30 hours

Moderate avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Friday the high fog clung tenaciously to the northern flank of the Alps below about 1300 m. Above 1300 m and in the remaining regions, it was sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m lay between zero degrees in northwestern regions and minus 2 degrees in the remaining regions. Light easterly winds were blowing.

The snowpack is highly varied even over limited surface areas. Along the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine, the snowpack is generally well consolidated and favourably layered. The snow is about 2 meters deep here, an above average amount. In the inneralpine regions in particular, and in wind protected, shady zones and areas with little snow in general, the snowpack is in places loosely packed down to the ground. Breaking through down to the lowermost layers and seldom whumpfung sounds are possible.

Short-term development

On Saturday it is again expected to be predominantly sunny in the mountains of Switzerland. In northern regions below about 1200 m, there will be high fog. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri it will be intermittently overcast in the course of the afternoon. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will lie between minus 2 degrees in western regions and minus 6 degrees in southern and eastern regions. Light to moderate easterly to northerly winds will prevail.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2000 m. In the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, as well as in the Valais, the avalanche prone locations are located primarily on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes. In the remaining regions they are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes. In general, the danger spots are more frequent in western regions and in the Valais than in eastern and southern regions. Avalanches can be triggered primarily through large additional loading. Transition areas from broad ridges with little snow to gullies and bowls must be assessed particularly critically, as must infrequently used and very steep, shady slopes. Prudent route selection and maintaining distance between persons to relieve loads are recommended.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday, it will be overcast in Ticino. A bit of snowfall is anticipated. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, clouds are expected to move in from the south over the course of the day. In northern regions it will be quite sunny, amid increasing foehn wind influence. On Monday, the foehn influence will escalate further. In northern regions it will be intermittently overcast. In southern regions, snowfall is again anticipated. By Sunday, there will not be significant change in the hazard level yet. It is possible that by Monday, the avalanche danger will increase regionally due to new snow and strong southerly winds.

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

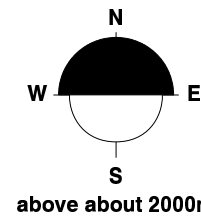
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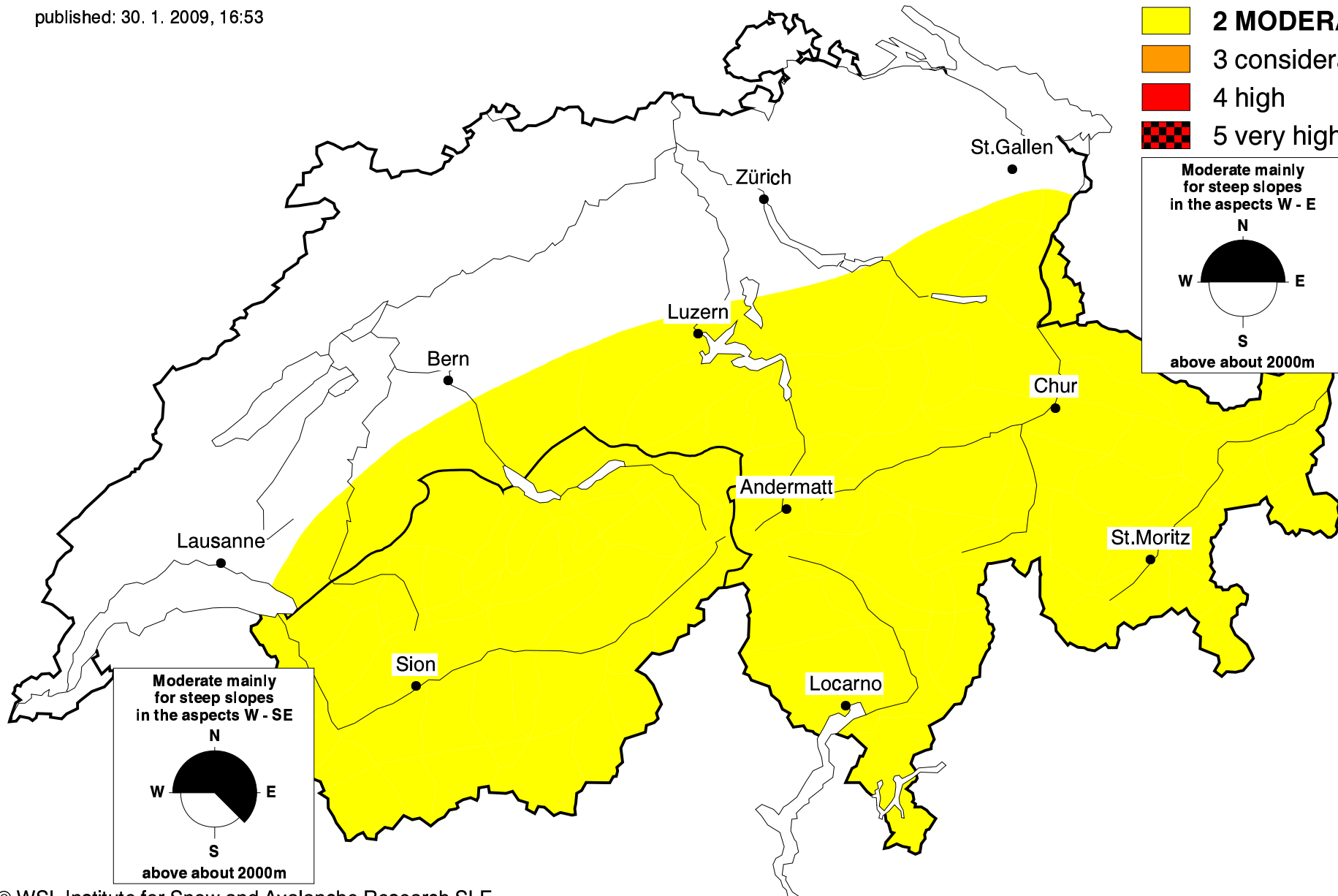
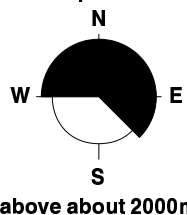
Danger level

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

Moderate mainly
for steep slopes
in the aspects W - E



Moderate mainly
for steep slopes
in the aspects W - SE








Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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

Moderate mainly
for steep slopes
in the aspects W - E
N
W — E
S
above about 2000m

Moderate mainly
for steep slopes
in the aspects W - SE
N
W — E
S
above about 2000m

