

National avalanche bulletin no. 94

for Friday, 6 February 2009

issue date 5.2.2009, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger escalates to level "high" in southern regions

Current conditions

On Thursday the sun was shining in northern and eastern regions in particular. In the remaining regions it was partially overcast. Towards midday along the southern flank of the Alps it began to snow. By evening, approximately 20 cm of snow had fallen in those areas. The midday temperature at 2000 m in northern regions was zero degrees and in southern regions minus 4 degrees. Moderate to strong southerly winds arose and gained strength in regions subject to foehn influence and at high altitudes in particular. The snow from the precipitation at the beginning of the week along the southern flank of the Alps and the bordering regions has settled somewhat. Surface hoar has formed in places on shady slopes over the last few days. Widespread on south facing slopes down to intermediate altitudes, a melt freeze crust has formed. The bonding between the snowdrift from the early part of the week and the old snowpack is still weak in places.

Short-term development

On Thursday night, the snowfall on the southern flank of the Alps will intensify and then continue throughout the day on Friday. From Ticino into the Bernina region, 50 to 70 cm of new snow is expected by Friday evening. In the bordering regions from the southern Simplon region over the southern Gotthard region into central Grisons and the Upper Engadine, 20 to 50 cm of new snow is expected, in the remaining regions less than 20 cm. The snowfall level will be 1000 m to begin with, then drop to about 500 m in the course of the period of precipitation. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. Strong southwesterly to southerly winds will prevail at high altitudes. In the major areas of precipitation in particular, new and deep snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Southern Simplon region; northern and central Ticino; Gotthard region south of the Rhone and the Reuss; Main Alpine Ridge from Oberalp Pass into the Bernina region; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; Puschlav:

High avalanche danger (Level 4)

This level is expected to be reached during the morning hours on Friday. The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Natural medium sized avalanches, but in some places also large sized avalanches, can be expected. The large avalanches can place exposed parts of transportation routes at risk.

Remaining western and central sectors of Main Alpine Ridge; remaining central Grisons and Upper Engadine; Sotto Ceneri; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. Both new snow and the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places. Even a single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger avalanches. Experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs is important.

Northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren; in addition, Valais not including Main Alpine Ridge; northern Grisons; Lower Engadine:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. Small snowdrift accumulations in particular, as well as any other snowdrift accumulations in widespread areas, must be assessed critically. They can easily be triggered and cause backcountry skiers to fall. Cautious route selection is important for that reason.

In all regions, increasingly frequent full depth snowslides can be released widespread on south facing slopes in particular. In Ticino at low lying areas, wet snowslides can be expected in all aspects.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

In southern regions, it is expected to continue snowing intensively until Saturday morning. On Sunday, light snowfall is expected in all mountain regions. Temperatures are expected to drop significantly on Sunday. Winds will shift to northerly. The avalanche danger will not change significantly between now and Saturday. On Sunday, the avalanche danger in southern regions is expected to diminish somewhat, in northern regions it will remain unchanged.

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: lw@slf.ch






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

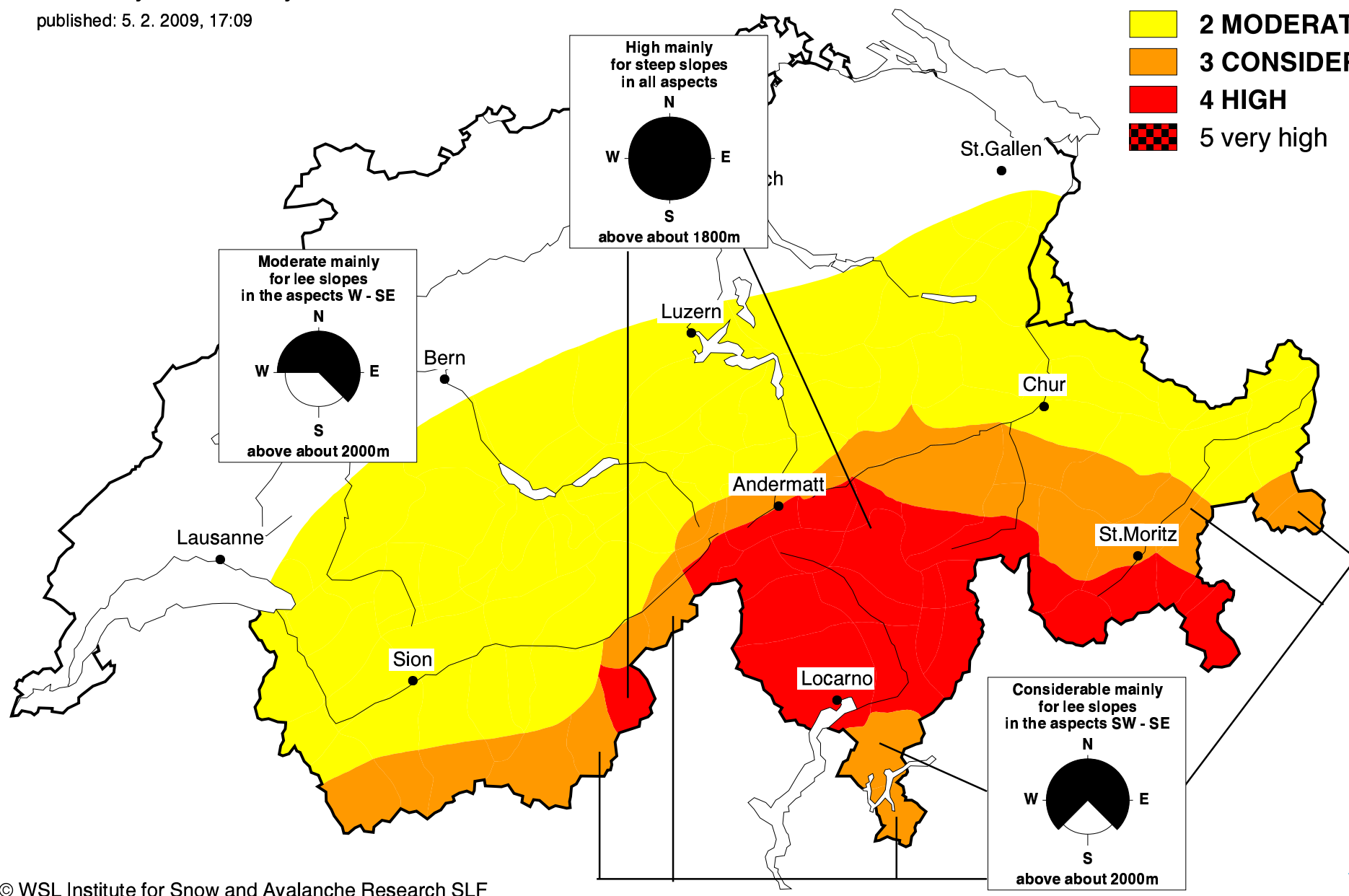
Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 6. February 2009

published: 5. 2. 2009, 17:09

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 6. February 2009

published: 6. 2. 2009, 07:55

Danger level

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

