

## National avalanche bulletin no. 96

for Sunday, 8 February 2009

issue date 7.2.2009, 18:30 hours

### *High avalanche danger continues regionally in southern regions*

#### Current conditions

On Saturday it snowed until midday in the south and in bordering regions. In the remaining regions the weather was variable. Along the southern flank of the Alps and in the regions bordering to the north as well as in the eastern sector of the Main Alpine Ridge as far as the Bernina region and in Puschlav, 80 to 120 cm of new snow has fallen since Thursday, locally even more. In the western and in the remaining parts of the central and eastern sectors of the Main Alpine Ridge, there has been 30 to 80 cm of new snow, in the remaining regions less than 30 cm. During the night, intermittently strong southerly winds were blowing at high altitudes. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 4 degrees. The bonding between the fresh layers of snow and the old snowpack was very weak, especially in the major areas of precipitation. Numerous medium and large sized avalanches were the consequence.

#### Short-term development

On Sunday, 15 to 35 cm of new snow is expected in the central and eastern sectors of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons in particular. In the remaining regions, up to 15 cm of new snow is anticipated. Temperatures will drop somewhat. The midday temperature at 2000 will be minus 8 degrees. Winds will shift to northerly and be weak to moderate in northern regions, strong in southern regions. In the major areas of precipitation in particular, new snowdrift accumulations will form, atop the already existing snowdrift masses, on north facing slopes; additional accumulations are expected to form on south facing slopes.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Southern Simplon region; northern Ticino; upper Val Calanca; upper Val Moesa and eastern sector of Main Alpine Ridge from Avers into Bernina region; St. Moritz; Puschlav:

##### *High avalanche danger (Level 4)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Natural medium sized avalanches, and also large sized natural avalanches, are possible. Avalanches can be easily triggered. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, dangerous conditions prevail. In addition, caution must be exercised towards potential avalanche run-out zones. A great deal of experience is imperative.

Northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Säntis region not including Prealps; western sector of Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to the Matterhorn; Upper Valais not including Simplon region; Grisons not including the following regions: eastern sector of Main Alpine Ridge from Avers into the Bernina region, St. Moritz, Puschlav, upper Val Calanca, upper Val Moesa:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. In the regions immediately bordering, to the north and to the south, those regions with Danger Level 4 (high) as well as in the Mattertal, Binntal, remaining central Grisons, remaining Upper Engadine, in Sotto Ceneri and in the Münstertal, the especially treacherous spots are to be found primarily on steep slopes above 2000 m. In the remaining regions of this danger level the danger is considerable on wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular. The new snow and the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places. Experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs is very important.

Prealps; western sector of northern flank of the Alps not including eastern Bernese Oberland; in addition, Lower Valais not including Main Alpine Ridge:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Small snowdrift accumulations in particular, as well as any other snowdrift accumulations in widespread areas, together with new fallen snow, must be assessed critically. They can be triggered by large additional loading in particular. Cautious route selection, particularly behind crests and knolls and in transition areas into gullies and bowls, is essential.

In all regions, full depth snowslides can be released. In the more southerly regions, wet snowslides are possible below about 1500 m in isolated cases.

#### Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday and Tuesday, strong to stormy westerly winds are expected to prevail. Following a short interim, snowfall will again set in widespread on Tuesday. The avalanche danger will subside slightly in southern regions. In northern regions it can increase regionally.

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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**  
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**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






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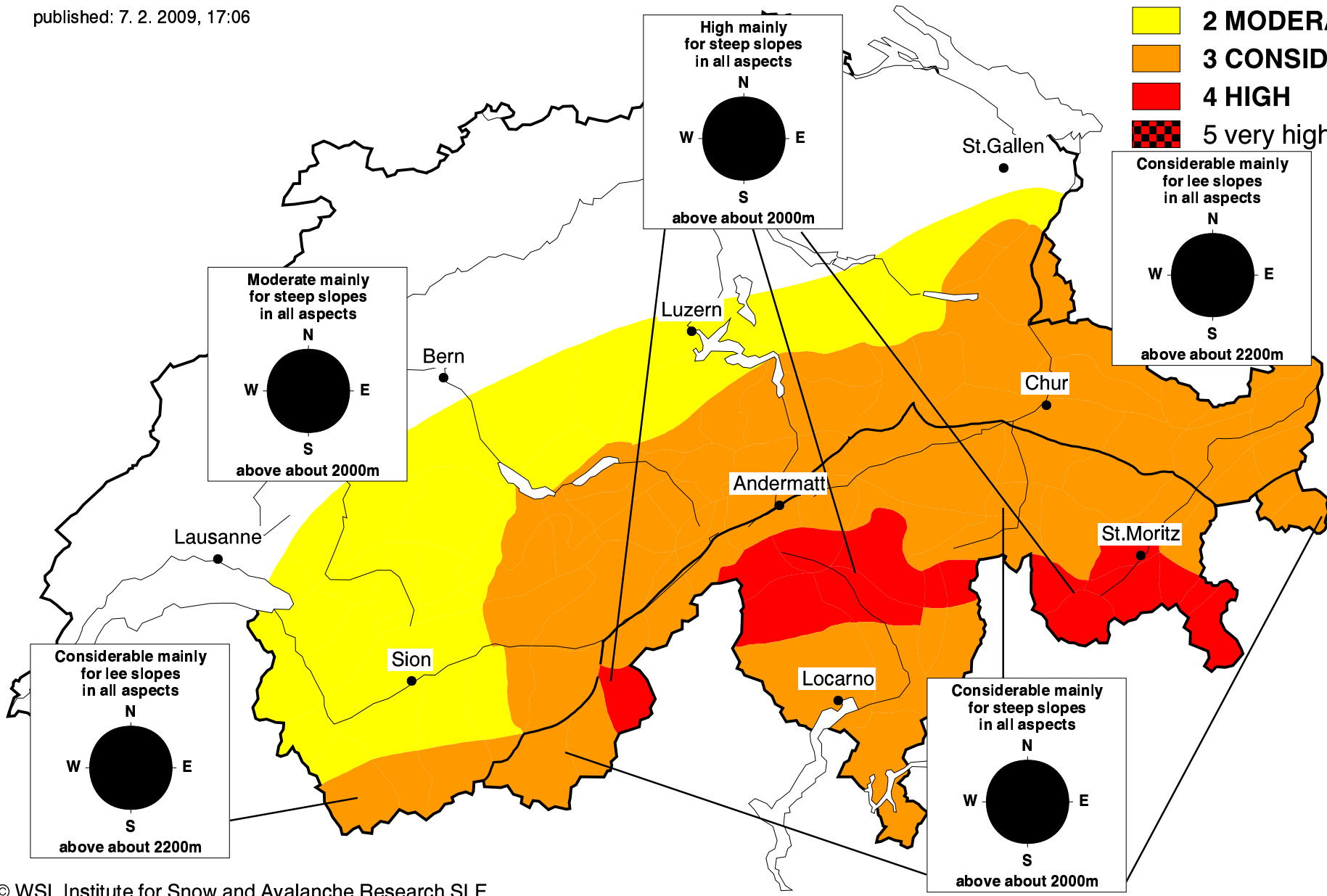
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 8. February 2009

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Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 8. February 2009

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Danger level

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

