

National avalanche bulletin no. 98

for Tuesday, 10 February 2009

issue date 9.2.2009, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger increasing during the day with stormy weather

Current conditions

Monday was overcast in the north, but there were some bright spells in the afternoon. In the south it was generally sunny. On Sunday night about 10 cm of snow fell on the northern flank of the Alps, but only a few centimetres fell elsewhere. Midday temperatures at 2000 m ranged from minus 5 degrees in the west and minus 8 degrees in the east to minus 3 degrees in the south. The westerly wind was moderate to strong in the north and west, but light to moderate in the east and south. At 2000 m, as much as 300 cm of snow is lying on the southern flank of the Alps. In the north, snow cover of 120 to 200 cm is widespread. In the northern prealps, central Valais, northern Grisons and Lower Engadine, 80 to 120 cm of snow is lying on the ground. On the southern flank of the Alps and in Upper Engadine, the snow cover is more than twice as deep as usual at this time of year. In some cases, the current snow depths are greater than measured at any time in the last 60 years.

Short-term development

The very strong westerly weather pattern will bring precipitation from the west on Monday night. The snowfall level will initially rise in the northwest to approximately 1700 m and in the east to approximately 1300 m, before dropping to low ground during the day. By Tuesday evening, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall in the west; elsewhere less than 10 cm will fall. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 6 degrees. In the north the wind will be very strong from the southwest to west. In the south it will be strong from the west. It will give rise to snow drift accumulations in areas that are not adjacent to the ridge line.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

On the southern flank of the Alps and on the main Alpine ridge from the Lukmanier Pass to the Bernina region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1600 m. In the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais excluding the southern Simplon region, and the rest of central Grisons and the rest of Upper Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on west to north to south facing wind-loaded slopes and in areas adjacent to the ridge line and pass areas in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations are very prone to triggering. Avalanches can be triggered by a single person. In the regions of the main Alpine ridge and to the south in particular, medium-sized avalanches, and even isolated large avalanches, are possible. During the day, the avalanche danger can increase to "high" (level 4) in the west and south in particular. Natural avalanches are possible to an increasing extent. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

In the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons and Lower Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in areas adjacent to the ridge line and pass areas in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily.

Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Full-depth avalanches can occur in all regions. In western and southern regions in particular, small wet snow slides are possible below approximately 1500 m.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Further snowfalls are to be expected, in particular in the north on Wednesday and in the west on Thursday. In the south the northerly wind will be accompanied by sunny spells. The northerly wind will be strong and the weather will remain cold. The avalanche danger will not change significantly.

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)

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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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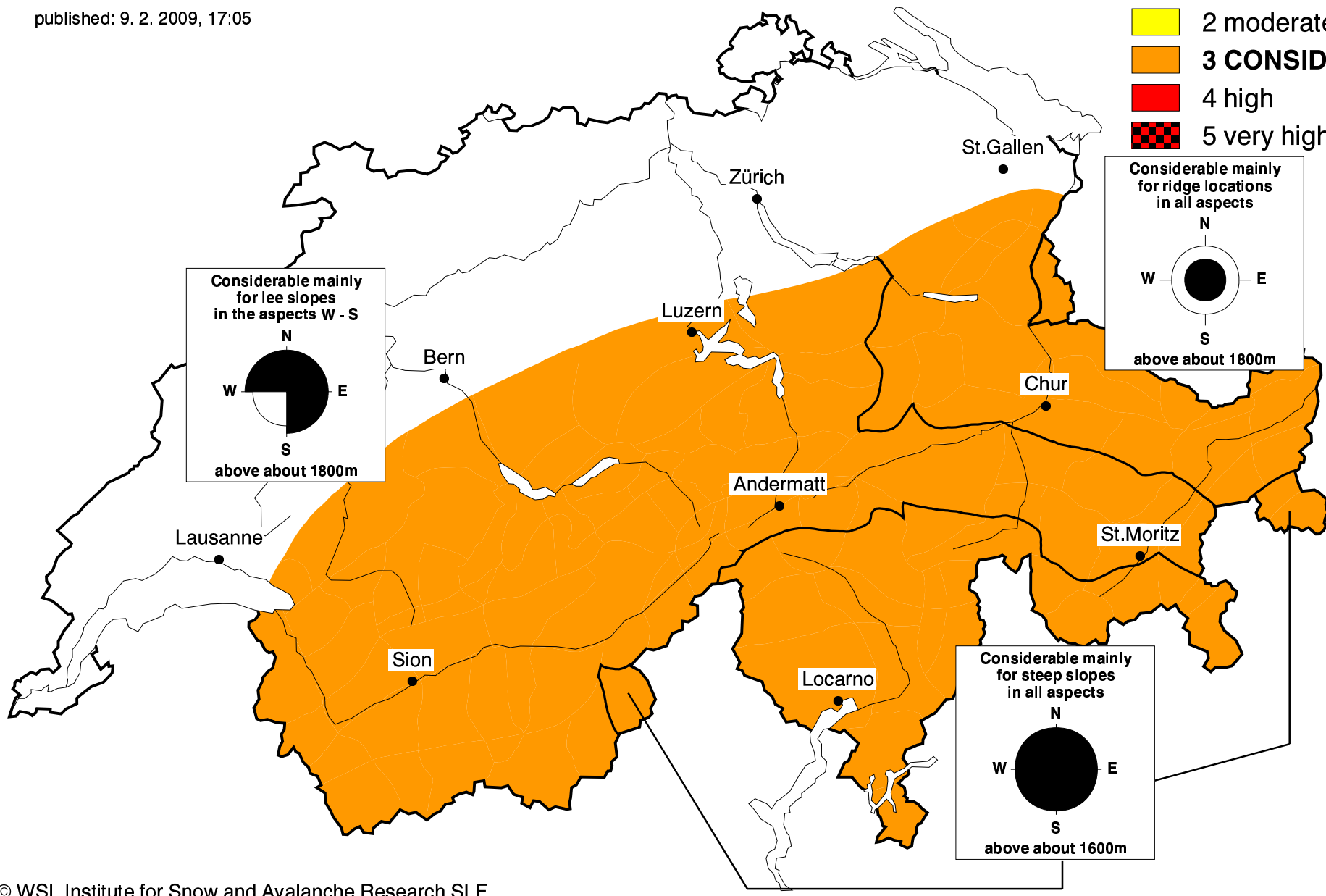
Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 10. February 2009

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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

