

National avalanche bulletin no. 99

for Wednesday, 11 February 2009

issue date 10.2.2009, 18:30 hours

High avalanche danger in some western regions

Current conditions

Tuesday was very cloudy and stormy. 10 to 30 cm of snow fell in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, and around 10 cm fell elsewhere on the northern flank. In southern Ticino and Grisons, there were some bright spells and very little snow fell. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 5 degrees. The southwesterly wind was strong to very strong in the north and west, and moderate to strong in the east.

In the extreme west and on the northern flank of the Alps, a crust formed on the snow surface up to an altitude of approximately 1800 m after the rain on Tuesday morning. The very strong wind has transported snow from west facing slopes and the vicinity of ridge lines and peaks. Snow drift accumulations cover large areas on lee slopes that are not adjacent to the ridge line, in some cases even below the tree line. Some of the accumulations are lying on a loosely bonded old snowpack. In the afternoon, natural avalanches were already being released, in particular in the west.

Short-term development

Wednesday will be mostly very cloudy. In central and southern Ticino the weather will become increasingly sunny. By Wednesday afternoon, 15 to 30 cm of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais and northern Grisons. In northern Ticino and the rest of Grisons, 5 to 15 cm of snow will fall. The snowfall level will drop to low ground. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 12 degrees. The wind direction will change to northerly. It will be moderate to strong in the north, and strong in the south. In the north, the fresh snow in particular will be transported. In the south, the loosely bonded old snow near the surface can be transported as well.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Leysin; Villars; northern Valais excluding Le Trient region; Goms:

High avalanche danger (level 4)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. On Tuesday night in particular, medium-sized and even large natural avalanches can occur. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered. Very critical conditions prevail off piste.

Northern flank of the Alps excluding Leysin and Villars; also the rest of Valais; Grisons; Ticino:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In the other regions on the northern flank of the Alps, in the rest of Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 1600 m. In northern and central Grisons and in 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 2000 m.

The main danger is posed by the more recent layers of snow drift accumulations. Small to medium-sized avalanches can be triggered by a single person. Isolated natural avalanches can occur. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche situation is required.

Isolated full-depth avalanches can occur in all regions.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

Thursday and Friday will be changeable with snow showers. The wind will be from the north and the weather will remain cold. The avalanche danger will decrease, in particular in the regions where it is high; elsewhere it 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)

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

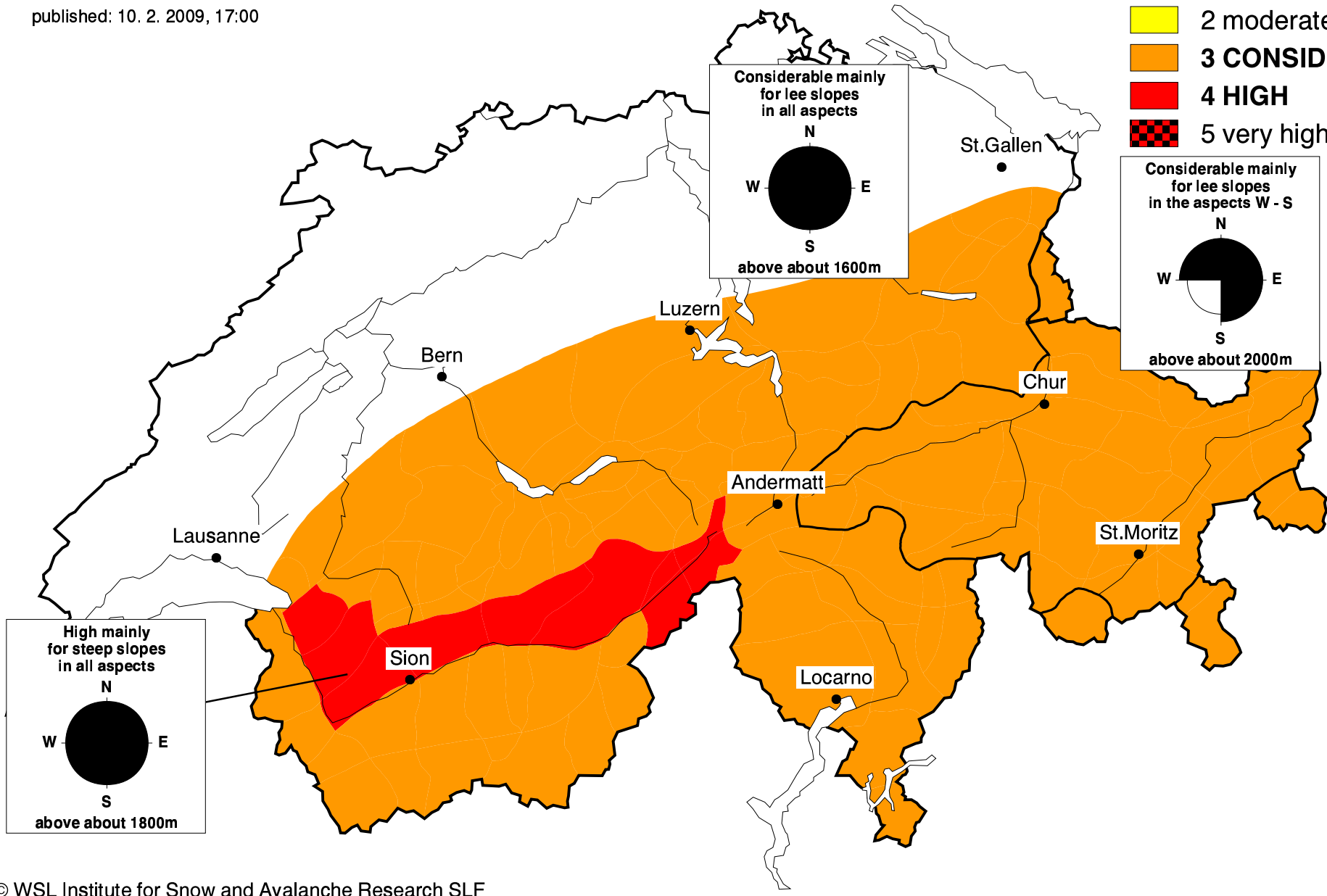
Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 11. February 2009

published: 10. 2. 2009, 17:00

Danger level

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



Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 11. February 2009

published: 11. 2. 2009, 07:58

Danger level

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

