

National avalanche bulletin no. 104

for Monday, 16 February 2009

issue date 15.2.2009, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Sunday there was sunshine. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 12 degrees in northern regions and minus 8 degrees in southern regions. On the Northern Alpine Ridge west of the Reuss as well as in the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge, a strong northeasterly wind was blowing, particularly in areas above approximately 2500 m. In these regions, fresh and treacherous snowdrift accumulations formed anew. In the remaining regions, a light to moderate northeasterly wind was blowing.

Along the northern flank of the Alps in regions approximately west of the Reuss, in the Valais, on the southern flank of the Alps as well as in the southern regions of Grisons, the snowpack has been heavily impacted by wind influence at high altitudes in particular. The snowdrift accumulations are generally easy to recognize. On the northern flank of the Alps in regions approximately east of the Reuss as well as in the northern regions of Grisons, older snowdrift accumulations are covered over by new snow and can be recognized only with difficulty.

Short-term development

On Monday it will be overcast in northern regions and 5 to 10 cm of new snow is expected. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 8 degrees. Moderate northwesterly winds are expected to prevail, in southern regions the winds will at times be strong.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including upper Saastal and not including southern Simplon region; in addition, northern Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

Along the northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss and in northern Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The avalanche prone locations are not widespread, but they are barely distinguishable. In such a treacherous avalanche situation as this, general caution and spacing to relieve loads are important.

Along the northern flank of the Alps west of the Reuss, in the indicated regions of the Valais, in northern Ticino, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Recently formed snowdrift accumulations are sometimes poorly bonded with the old snowpack. In some places, avalanches can be triggered by single persons. Experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards and cautious route selection are important.

Upper Saastal; southern Simplon region; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1600 m. The snowdrift of recent days should be assessed with great caution.

In all regions, full depth snowslides are possible in isolated cases.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday along the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, about 30 to 40 cm of new snow is anticipated. Only in far southern regions will it remain dry. The avalanche danger is expected to escalate rapidly in northern regions. On Wednesday it will be quite sunny. Treacherous conditions prevail for backcountry ski tours and freeriding descents in northern regions in particular.

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)

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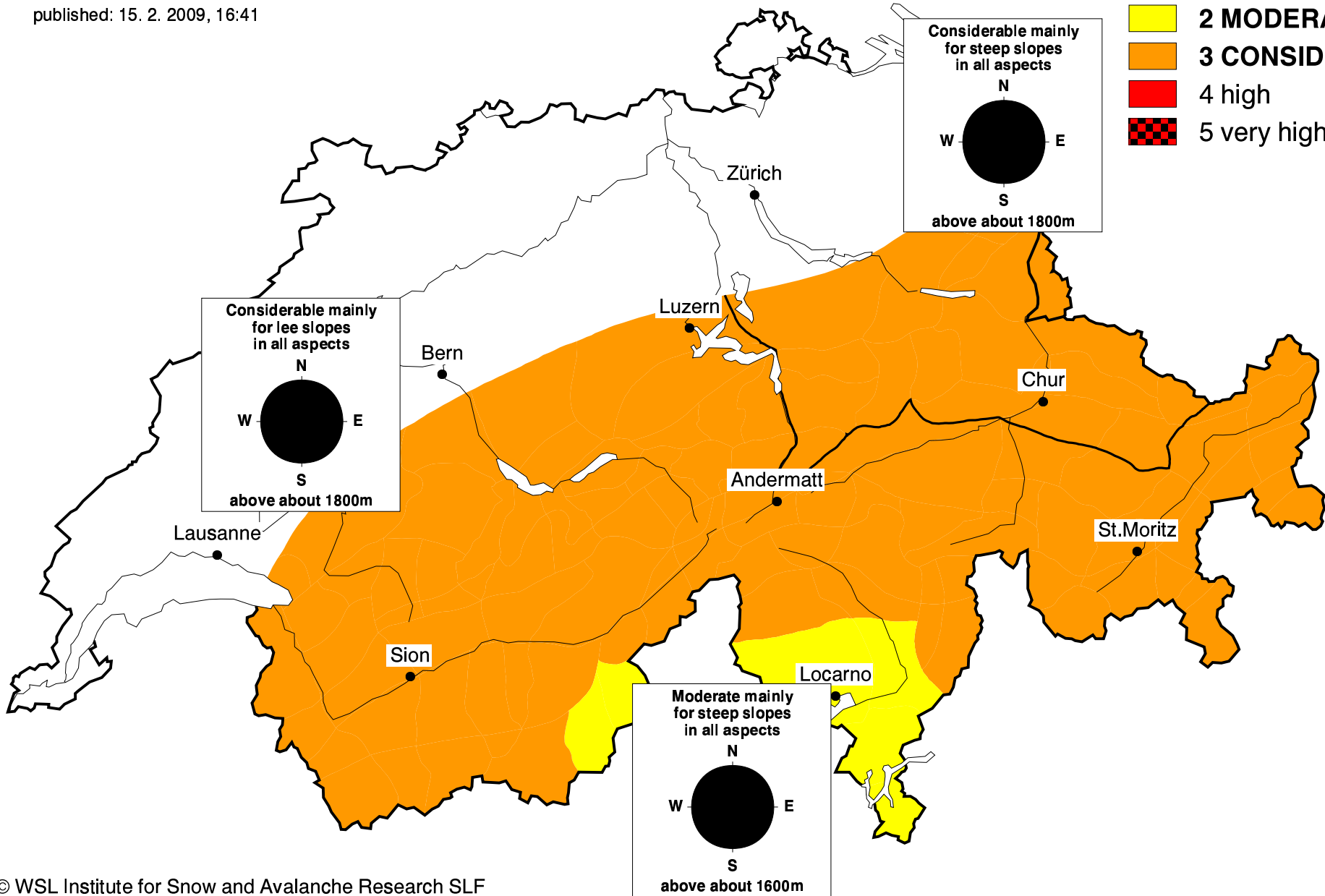
Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 16. February 2009

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 16. February 2009

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Danger level

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

