

National avalanche bulletin no. 106

for Wednesday, 18 February 2009

issue date 17.2.2009, 18:30 hours

High avalanche danger in some regions

Current conditions

On Tuesday morning, snow began to fall heavily in the north. By the afternoon, 40 to 60 cm had fallen in the area extending from the eastern Bernese Alps to Prättigau, and 30 to 40 cm had fallen in the area from Chablais to the western Bernese Alps. Towards the south, the amounts of snow decreased sharply. In southern Ticino the weather was sunny. The northwesterly wind was occasionally strong, but moderate in the extreme west. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 6 degrees.

Large snow drift accumulations have formed in the regions exposed to heavier precipitation. In the central and eastern regions in particular, the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations can very easily be released on the thin, loosely bonded fresh layer of snow from Monday evening.

Short-term development

On Tuesday night, up to 20 cm more snow will fall. The heaviest precipitation will occur on the northern flank of the Alps. Ticino will be dry. During the day, the weather will be mostly sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will fall to minus 9 degrees in the west and minus 12 degrees in the east. The north to northeasterly wind will be strong to very strong during the night, then moderate during the day.

The snow drift accumulations will become a little larger during the night. They remain very prone to triggering.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps east of Lake Thun; northern Tavetsch; northern Surselva; northern Grisons:

High avalanche danger (level 4)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1600 m. Numerous small and medium-sized and, in some cases, even large natural avalanches are expected. In the regions exposed to heavier precipitation, exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered as a general rule. The likelihood of avalanche triggering is very high. Very critical conditions prevail for snow sport participants venturing off piste.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; rest of Grisons; Jura:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, the rest of the Bernese Alps and northern Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1400 m. Small and medium-sized and, in isolated cases, even large natural avalanches are expected. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. Avalanches can easily be released by winter sport participants. Critical conditions prevail off piste, where very extensive experience and great caution are required.

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m in southern Valais, northern Ticino and the affected areas of Grisons, and above approximately 1400 m in the Jura. The fresh snow drift accumulations can be released easily and are to be avoided. Individual weaknesses also exist in the old snowpack. In the regions adjacent to those that are subject to the danger level "high" (level 4), natural avalanches are possible as well.

Central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations are mostly small, but prone to triggering. They are to be avoided.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

Thursday will be fairly sunny. Friday will be only partly sunny, with fairly dense cloudbanks in the east in particular. It will be mostly sunny in the south. It will remain cold. The avalanche danger will decrease only slowly. The situation remains treacherous for winter sport participants venturing off piste.

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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(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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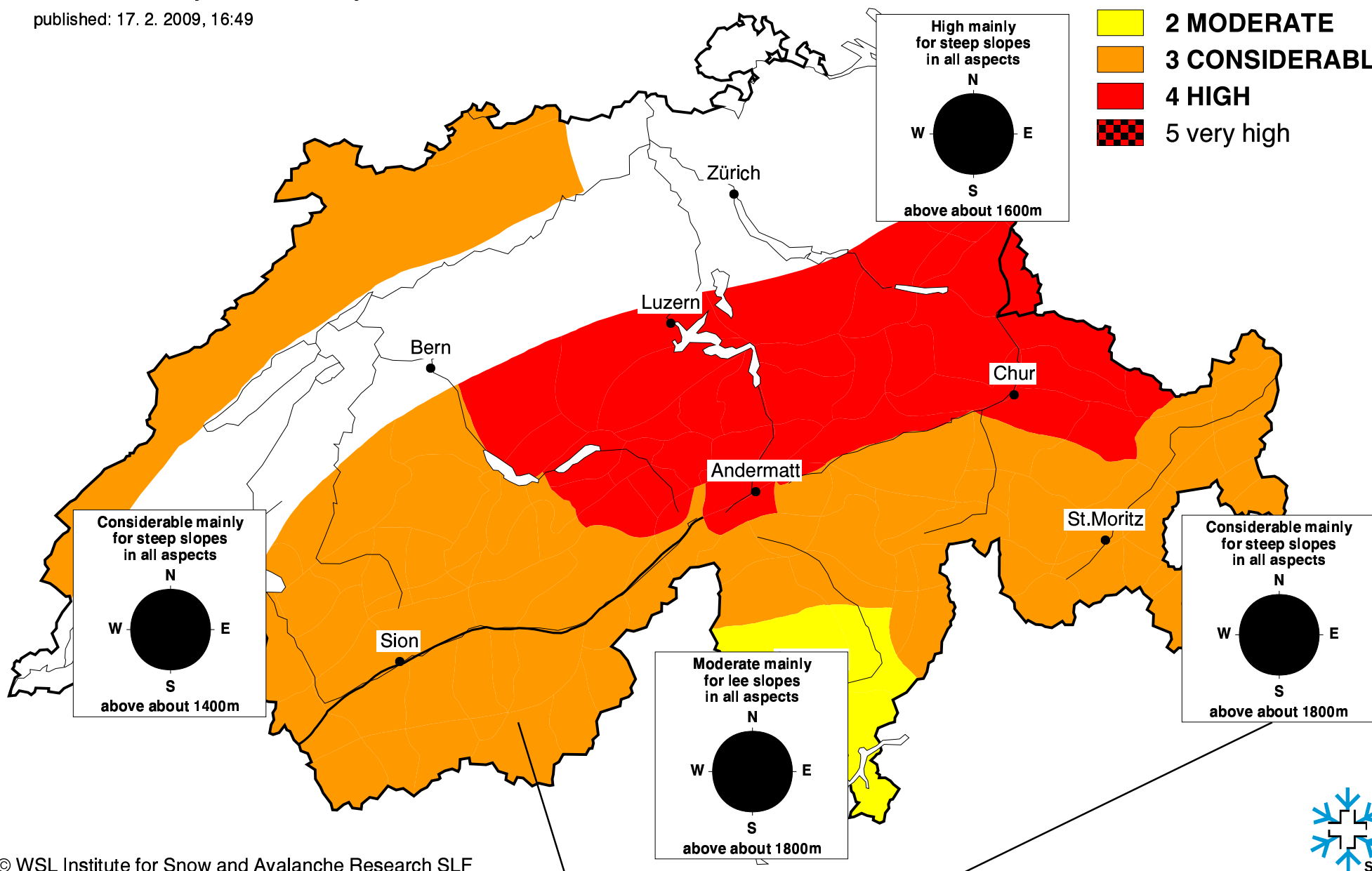
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Danger level

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








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