

National avalanche bulletin no. 108

for Friday, 20 February 2009

issue date 19.2.2009, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger continues widespread

Current conditions

On Thursday it was sunny in the mountains. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 10 degrees in northern regions and minus 7 degrees in southern regions. A moderate northerly wind was blowing.

The new snow and snowdrift from Tuesday has not yet consolidated sufficiently with the old snowpack everywhere. Thus, it currently represents the major danger.

Short-term development

On Thursday night it will be clear in most places. During the day on Friday it will be quite sunny in the Valais and in southern regions, elsewhere heavily overcast. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in northern Grisons, a few centimeters of new snow is expected. Moderate northerly winds will prevail, in the central sector of the Main Alpine Ridge the winds will be intermittently strong. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 6 degrees in western and southern regions, minus 9 degrees in eastern regions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; central part of Main Alpine Ridge; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

Along the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais not including the upper Saastal and not including the southern Simplon region, additionally in northern and central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. North of the Rhine-Rhone line in particular, where the snowfall from Tuesday was heavy, both new fallen snow and snowdrift have already consolidated adequately with the old snowpack. In some places, however, single backcountry skiers and freeriders can still trigger avalanches which can attain medium size. In the Lower Engadine, the often far reaching snowdrift accumulations form the major hazard. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, in addition, fractures in the weak old snowpack are also possible in isolated cases. Both experience in the assessment of the avalanche situation as well as cautious route selection are imperative in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs.

In the upper Saastal, in the southern Simplon region, in the Bedrettal, in the upper Leventina, in the Bleniotal, in the southern valleys of Grisons and in the Upper Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The snowdrift accumulations can be triggered as avalanches even by a single backcountry skier or freerider in places. They should be avoided whenever possible through prudent route selection.

Ticino south of the Main Alpine Ridge:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The snowdrift accumulations which are now already somewhat older can be triggered primarily through large additional loading. They should be assessed with great caution.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On both days it is expected to be heavily overcast in northern regions and some new snow is anticipated in eastern regions in particular. In the Valais it will be quite sunny on Saturday, then heavily overcast on Sunday. In Ticino it will be predominantly sunny, amid northerly winds. On Sunday, temperatures are expected to rise. The avalanche danger will increase slightly in eastern regions. In western regions, the hazards will not change significantly. In southern regions, the danger will diminish somewhat.

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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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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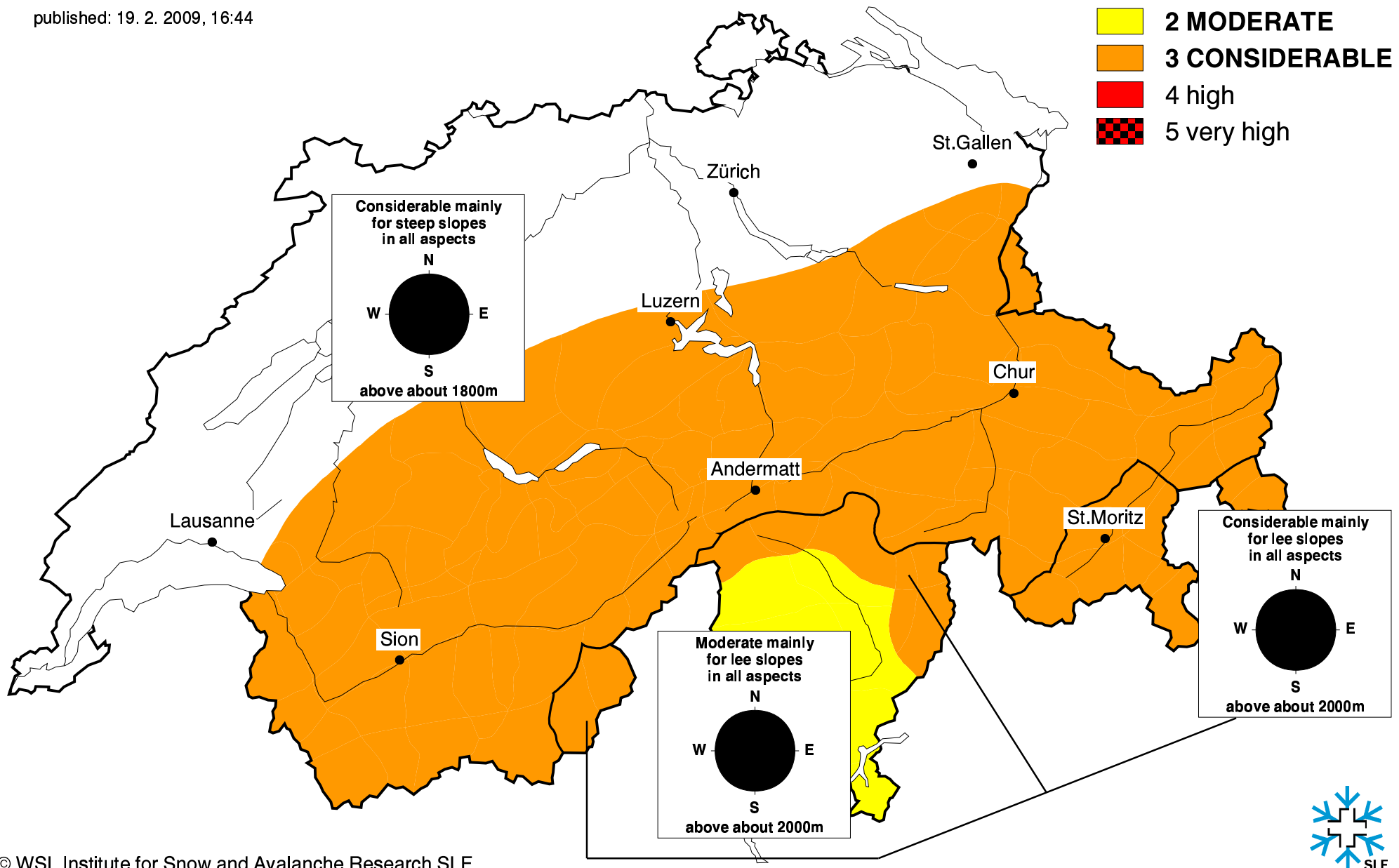
Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 20. February 2009

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 20. February 2009

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Danger level

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

