

National avalanche bulletin no. 113

for Wednesday, 25 February 2009

issue date 24.2.2009, 18:30 hours

Widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

On Tuesday the snowfall also eased on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. In Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, the weather was sunny; in the other regions it was mostly cloudy. On the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland to the Alpstein region, and in northern Upper Valais and northern Grisons, 30 to 60 cm of snow has fallen in the last three days. On the rest of the northern flank of the Alps and in Lower Valais, central Grisons and Lower Engadine, the quantities of new snow are 15 to 30 cm, but less has fallen further to the south. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 7 degrees in the north and minus 3 degrees in the extreme south. At high altitude, the northerly wind was strong and gusty at times.

The bonding between the fresh snow and the old snowpack remains poor over a wide area. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons, weak layers that are prone to triggering exist deep in the snowpack in many places.

Short-term development

Wednesday will be generally sunny at high altitude. The air temperature will increase. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 3 degrees. The northerly wind will remain strong at times during the night, before easing significantly during the day.

The temperature increase and first day of sun in the north for a long time will give rise to a very treacherous avalanche situation during the day in some northern regions in particular.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps excluding the western Prealps; Valais excluding the regions of the western part of the main Alpine ridge; northern and central Grisons; Upper Engadine excluding the regions on the main Alpine ridge; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In the Bernese Oberland excluding the Prealps, and in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, central Valais, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine and Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In the regions exposed to heavier precipitation, the new snow is the main danger. It is poorly bonded with the old snowpack and can be released by a small additional load. Natural avalanches are possible. In the other relevant regions, but especially in central Valais, central Grisons and Lower Engadine, single persons can release avalanches in deeper layers of the snowpack, in particular in areas where the snow cover is shallow. Avalanches can reach medium size over a wide area.

In the other regions subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Fresh snow drift accumulations, in particular in gullies and bowls and behind abrupt changes in slope angle, can be released easily and represent the main danger. Very careful route selection is important in these places. In all the regions subject to this danger level, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required by those venturing off piste.

Western Prealps; western part of the main Alpine ridge; central part of the southern flank of the Alps; main Alpine ridge in Upper Engadine; Bergell; Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. Steep slopes above approximately 1800 m are to be assessed especially critically in the western Prealps, and predominantly wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m are to be assessed likewise in the other regions subject to this danger level. Fresh, rather small snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible.

In all regions, an increasing number of full-depth avalanches and wet snow slides are once again to be expected below approximately 1800 m.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

In the north it will be sunny during the day on Thursday, but snow will fall during the night. The weather will brighten up again on Friday. The south can anticipate mostly sunny weather on both days. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.

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

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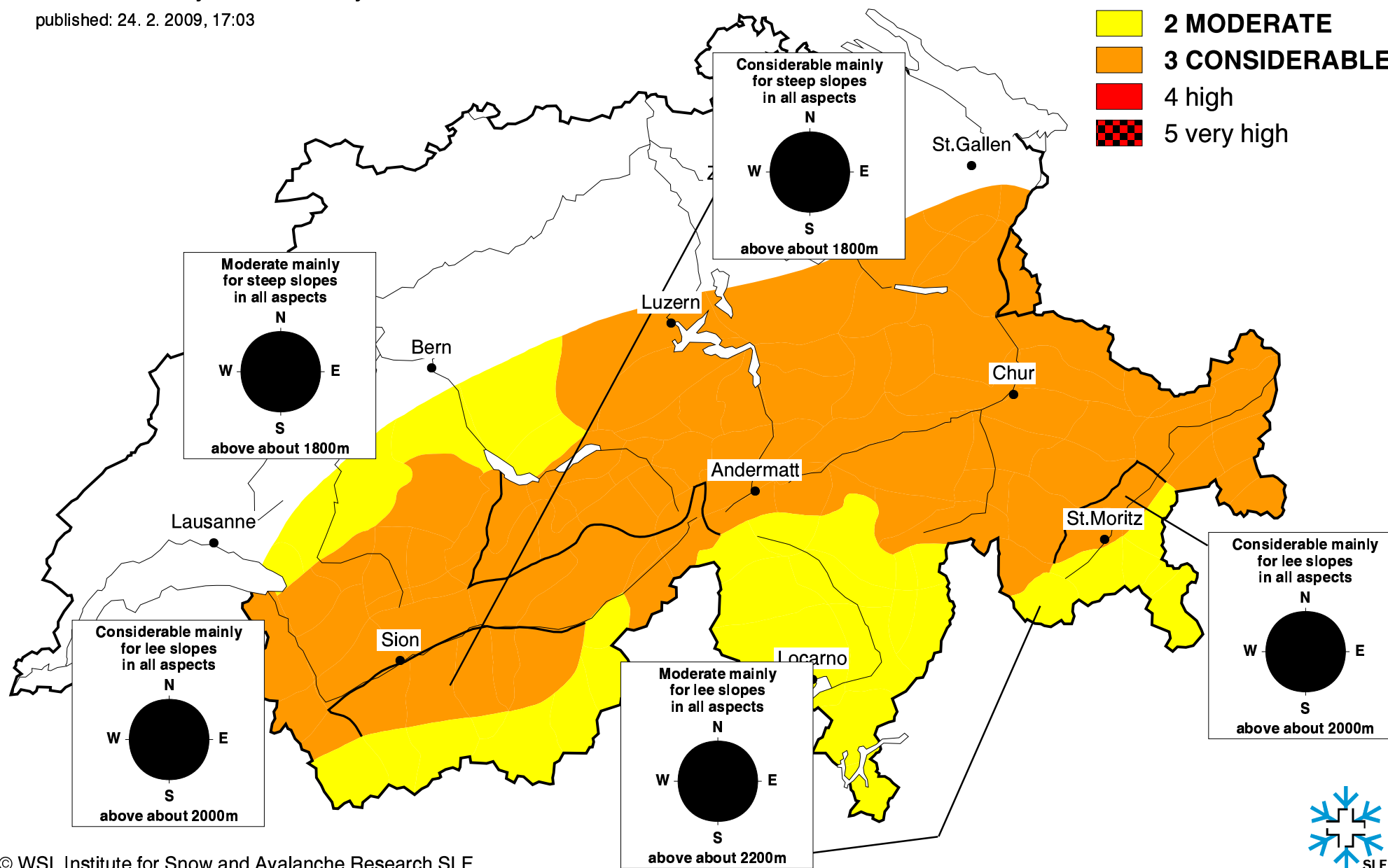
Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 25. February 2009

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 25. February 2009

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Danger level

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

