

National avalanche bulletin no. 115

for Friday, 27 February 2009

issue date 26.2.2009, 18:30 hours

Fresh snow drift accumulations at high altitude require caution

Current conditions

On Thursday, the weather was mostly sunny in Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps; in the other regions it was cloudy. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 1 degree in the north and plus 2 degrees in the south. The west to northwesterly wind was light in the west and moderate to strong in the east.

The snowpack continued to settle and bond slowly in southern aspects in particular. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular, weak layers that are prone to triggering still exist in the snowpack.

Short-term development

On Thursday night, snow will begin to fall in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons and Engadine in particular. In these regions 5 to 10 cm of snow will fall by Friday evening. Less snow will fall in the other regions except in the west, where no snow will fall. The light snowfall will be accompanied by strong northerly winds at high altitude. The temperature will fall and reach about minus 4 degrees at midday at 2000 m.

The strong northerly winds will give rise to fresh snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern Alpine ridge from Wildstrubel to Alpstein; central Valais; Gotthard region; central Grisons excluding the regions on the main Alpine ridge to the east of the Lukmanier Pass; northern Grisons; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In central Valais, the forenamed regions of central Grisons, Lower Engadine and Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Here, winter sport participants can release avalanches in areas where the snow cover is shallow in particular. In the other regions subject to this danger level, the critical locations are to be found predominantly on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Here, snow drift accumulations, especially immediately behind peaks and in gullies and bowls, must be evaluated with care and prudence. In all the forenamed regions, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection are required by those venturing off piste.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining regions of Valais; Ticino excluding the Gotthard region; main Alpine ridge from Lukmanier to the Bernina region and to the south; Upper Engadine; Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. On the rest of the northern flank of the Alps, snow drift accumulations above approximately 1800 m in particular are to be assessed critically. In the other regions subject to this danger level, wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular call for careful route selection.

In all regions, isolated full-depth avalanches are to be expected below approximately 1800 m.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On each of the next two days, the weather will be sunny and mild in all regions. The danger of avalanches will vary appreciably during the day. The avalanche situation will be more favourable in the mornings than later in the day.

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

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Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

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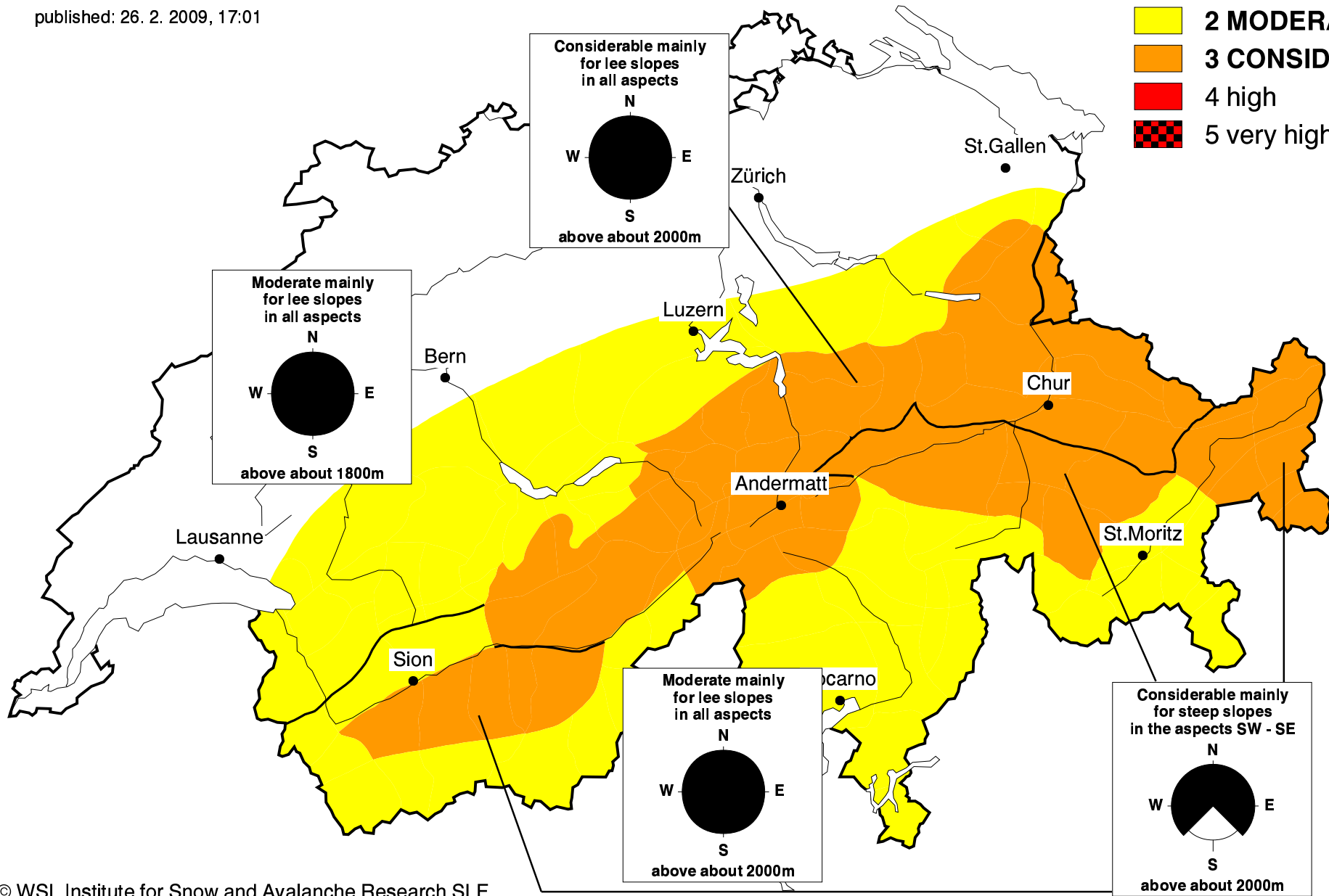
Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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

