



National avalanche bulletin no. 116

for Saturday, 28 February 2009

issue date 27.2.2009, 18:30 hours

Significant increase in avalanche danger during the day

Current conditions

In the course of Friday, the light snowfall also eased in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons and Lower Engadine. In the forenamed regions, 10 to 25 cm of snow has fallen above approximately 1300 m since yesterday. Hardly any snow fell in the other regions. On the northern flank of the Alps, the weather was mostly cloudy. Further south it was sunny at times. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 4 degrees in the north and plus 2 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps. The west to northwesterly wind was light to moderate.

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 Saturday it will be sunny in the Swiss Alps. Temperatures will increase in the north. At midday at 2000 m, they will be about plus 3 degrees in the north and 0 degrees in the south. There will be a light southwesterly wind.

During the day, radiation and warming will make the snowpack increasingly prone to triggering, especially in the inneralpine regions and the northeast.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Central Valais; Prättigau; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be released here even by a single snow sport participant and, in some cases, reach medium size. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection are required by those venturing off piste.

Northern flank of the Alps; remaining regions of Valais; Ticino; Grisons excluding Prättigau, Lower Engadine and Münstertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, northern Grisons excluding Prättigau and in central Grisons, they are to be found in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In the other regions subject to this danger level, they are to be found on southwest to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. Snow drift accumulations immediately behind abrupt changes in slope angle and at transitions into gullies and bowls are to be assessed especially critically. In particular in central Grisons, avalanches can also be released in deep layers of the snowpack in areas with rather shallow snow cover. Careful route selection is important.

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, northern and central Valais, northern and central Grisons and Lower Engadine, the avalanche danger will increase during the morning on south facing slopes in particular, where it will reach considerable (level 3) everywhere. Natural dry avalanches are possible to an increasing extent above approximately 2000 m. Below approximately 1800 m, wet snow slides are to be expected. Full-depth avalanches can be released even at high altitudes.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday the weather will remain sunny over a wide area. Towards the evening, cloud will build up from the southwest.

Monday will be cloudy and some snow will fall in the south. The danger of avalanches will vary appreciably during the day on Sunday. On Monday, the danger will increase slightly in the south, but it will not change significantly in the north.

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)

Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch

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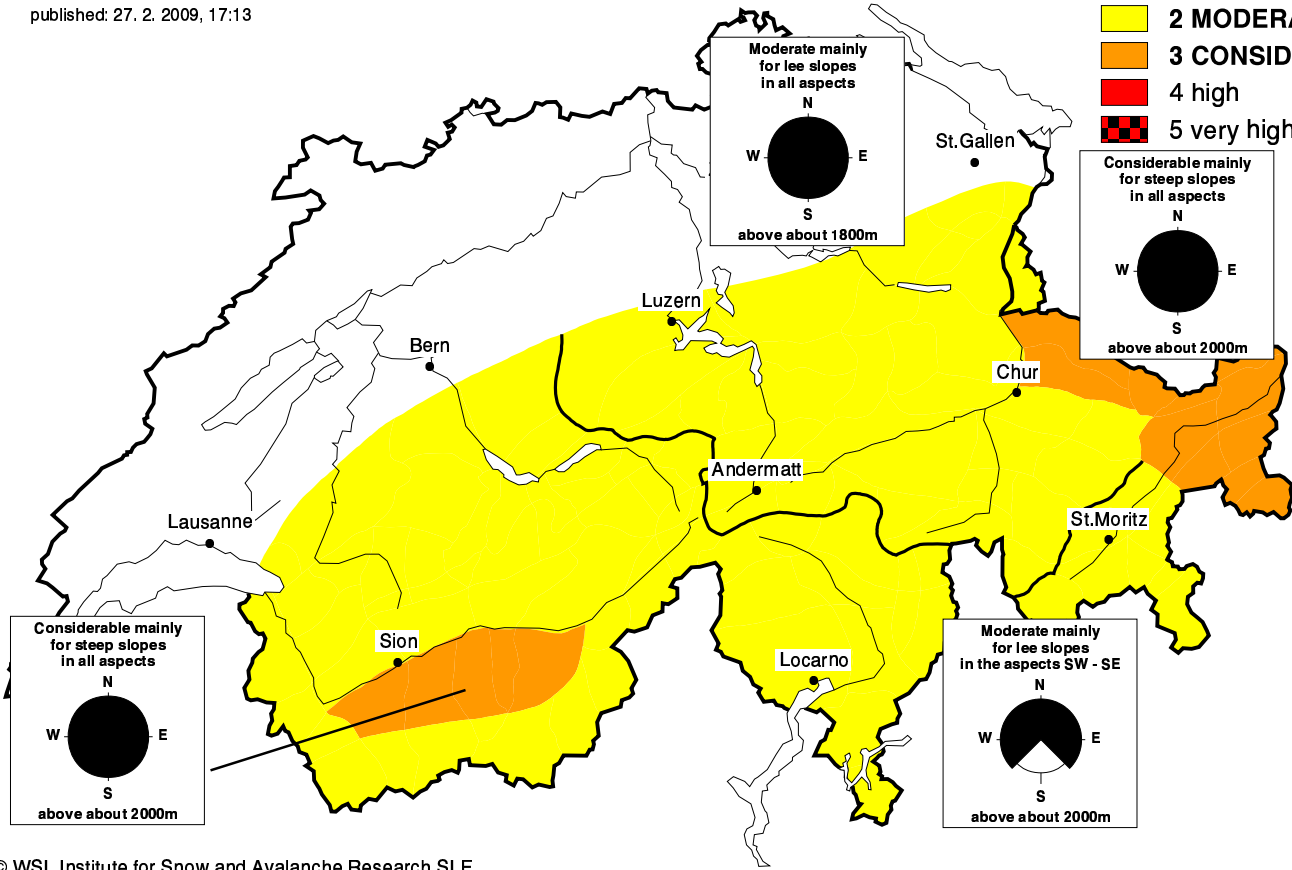
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 28. February 2009

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Danger level

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



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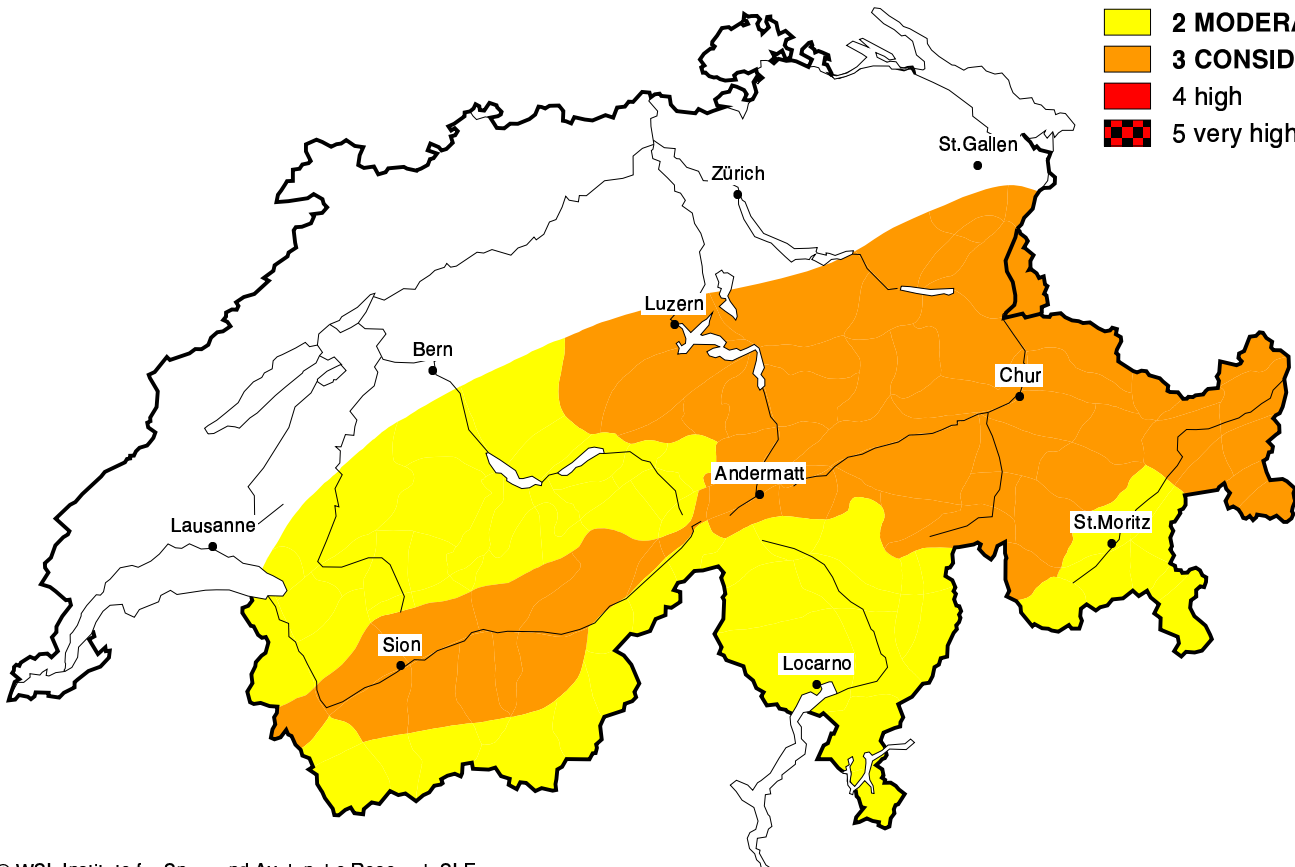


Avalanche danger in the course of the day

for Saturday, 28. February 2009

Danger level

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



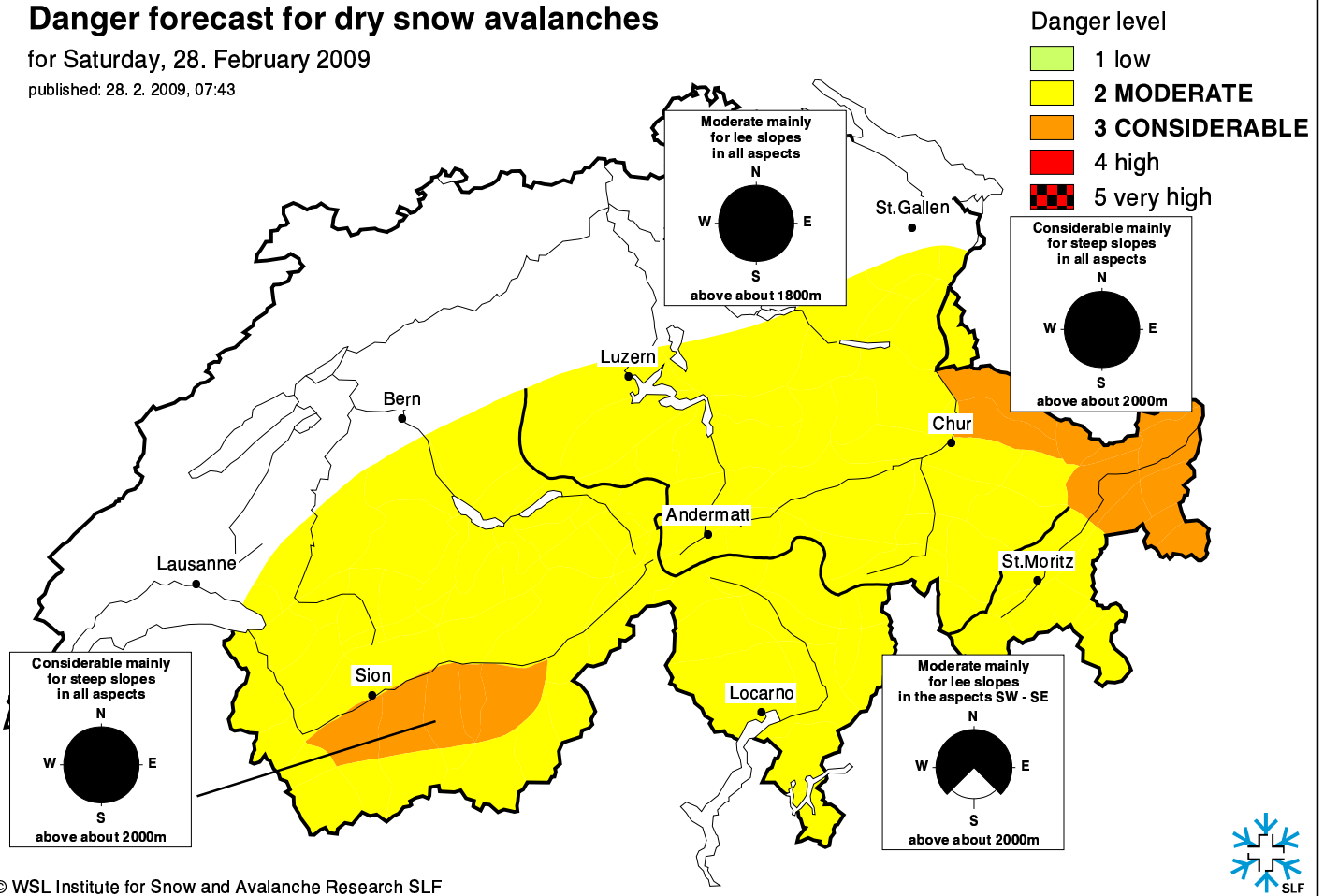
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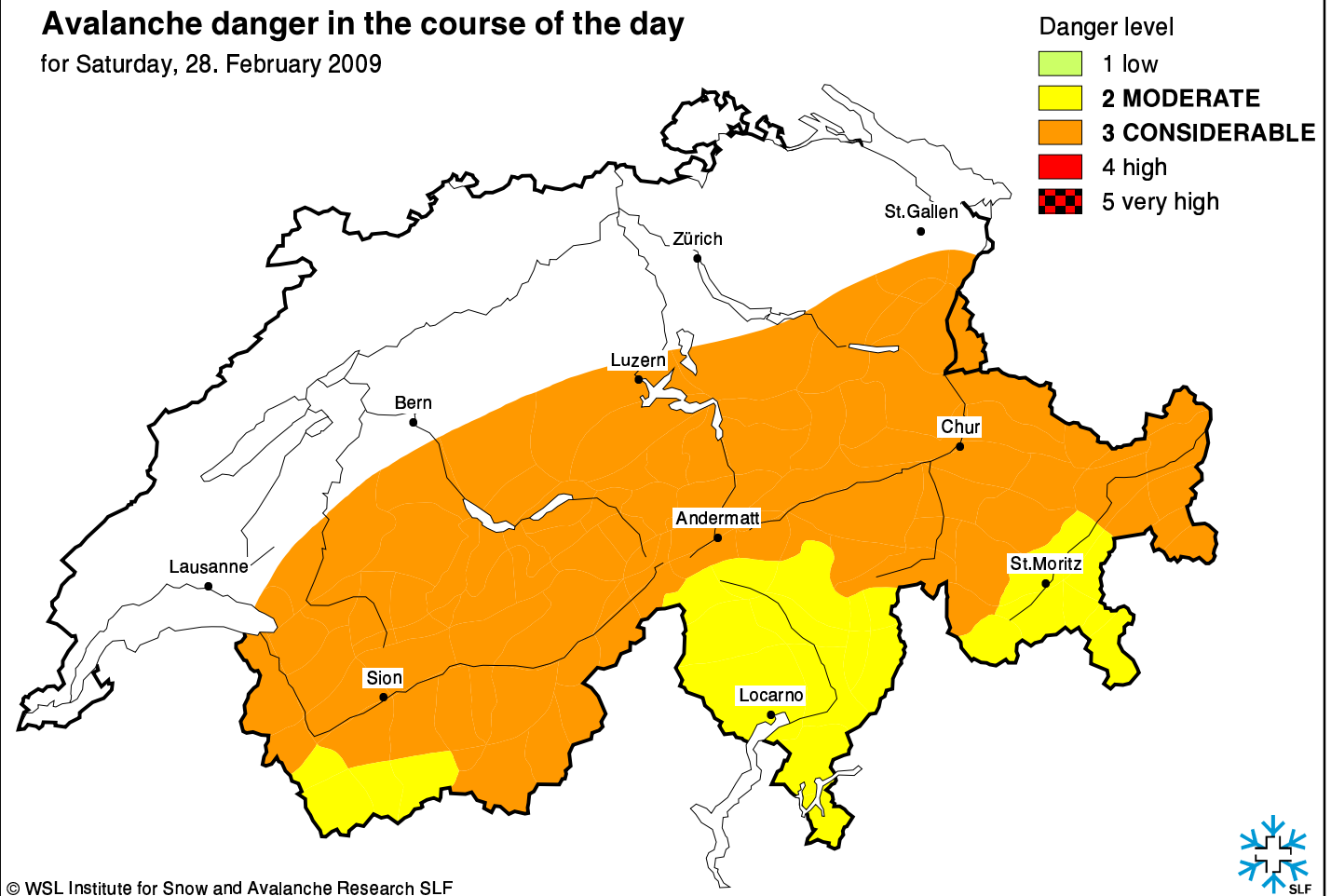
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