

National avalanche bulletin no. 118

for Monday, 2 March 2009

issue date 1.3.2009, 18:30 hours

Moderate avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Sunday in northeastern regions there were initially bright skies due to foehn winds. Elsewhere it was overcast. There was hardly any snowfall. The midday temperature at 2000 m was zero degrees. Light southerly winds were blowing.

On sunny slopes below about 3000 m there is a breakable melt-freeze crust on the snow surface which is capable of bearing loads only in some places on very steep south facing slopes. Wind protected north facing slopes above approximately 1800 m are still powdery. Primarily in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, poorly consolidated, faceted layers lie embedded inside the snowpack.

Short-term development

On Sunday night, a small amount of snowfall is expected widespread. On Monday, the light snowfall will continue in northern regions. In southern regions it will be partially overcast and dry. By Monday evening on the northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 10 cm of new snow is anticipated, elsewhere less. The snowfall level will drop from about 1500 m down towards 1000 m. The midday temperatures in northern regions will be minus 2 degrees and in southern region zero degrees. Light to moderate westerly winds will prevail, the winds in southern regions will be northwesterly.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps not including regions south of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the central Valais, in the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Through large additional loading in particular, avalanches can be triggered in places which tend to have a relatively thin snowpack. Such avalanches can attain medium size in places.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes. On the northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2000 m. In the remaining Valais, in the remaining regions of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge, in Upper Engadine, in Bergell and in Puschlav, the avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2200 m. Especially transition areas into gullies and bowls, as well as sharp breaks in the terrain, have to be critically assessed. Particularly in central Grisons in places with lesser amounts of snow, avalanches can also fracture from the lowermost layers of the snowpack.

In all regions, cautious route selection is important.

Regions south of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

The avalanche prone locations are still to be found primarily in extremely steep terrain. Sluffs can sweep along persons and cause them to fall.

Full depth snowslides can be unleashed in all regions, including at high altitudes. Fresh glide cracks are indicators of this hazard. Due to light rainfall and relatively mild temperatures, wet snowslides are possible below about 1500 m.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday it will be overcast. Only a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. On Wednesday the skies in northern regions will brighten up, due to foehn wind influence. The avalanche danger will not alter significantly on Tuesday; on Wednesday it is expected to increase in southern regions in particular.

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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

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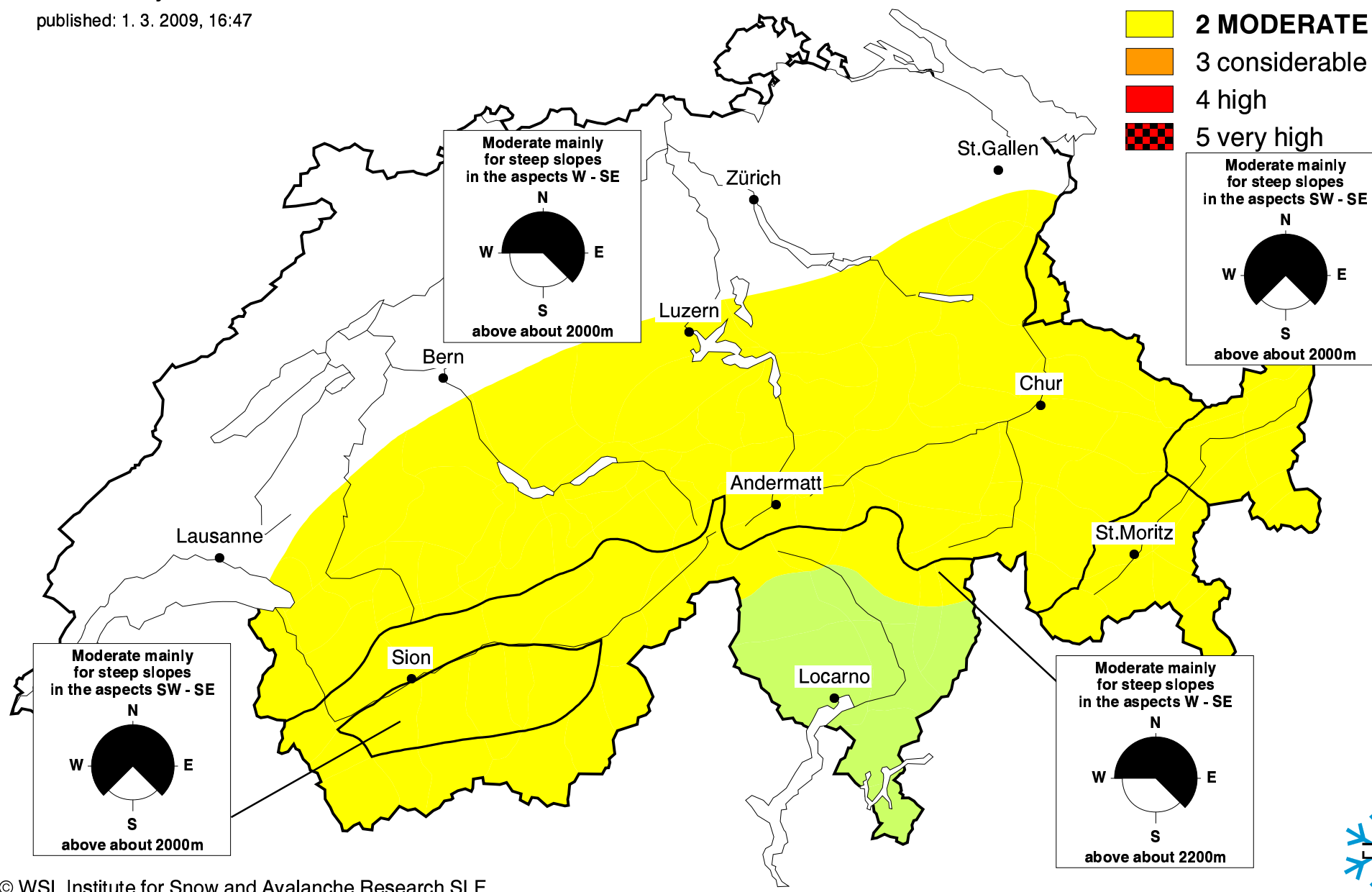
Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 2. March 2009

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Danger level

-  **1 LOW**
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 considerable**
-  **4 high**
-  **5 very high**








Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 2. March 2009

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Below about 2000 m avalanche danger for wet snow avalanches in all aspects.
Full depth snow slides also at high altitudes.

Danger level

-  **1 LOW**
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 considerable**
-  **4 high**
-  **5 very high**

