

National avalanche bulletin no. 119

for Tuesday, 3 March 2009

issue date 2.3.2009, 18:30 hours

Considerable danger of wet and full-depth avalanches in particular

Current conditions

On Monday there were some bright spells in central and southern Valais and Ticino. Otherwise, the weather was mostly cloudy. A few centimetres of snow fell over a wide area. The snowfall level rose to above 1800 m at times. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 2 degrees in the north and about 0 degrees in the south. The wind was light and from the west.

Below approximately 2000 m, the surface of the snowpack is moist. The snowpack is moist all the way through below approximately 1300 m. Weakly bonded, faceted layers exist in the snowpack in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular, especially in Lower Engadine and Münstertal.

Short-term development

It will be mostly cloudy during the night and on Tuesday. In the inneralpine regions, some bright spells will occur during the day. A few centimetres of snow will fall over a wide area. The snowfall level will be between 1000 and 1500 m. The midday temperature will be about minus 4 degrees. The wind will be light to moderate from the southwest.

The snowpack will remain prone to triggering because of rain and the absence of outgoing radiation.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered by a single person. Isolated natural avalanches can also occur. Those engaging in backcountry touring and off-piste activities must dispose of a lot of experience in the assessment of avalanche danger.

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Grisons excluding Val Calanca, Val Moesa, Lower Engadine and Münstertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

In central Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in particular on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be released especially in areas where the snow cover is shallow.

In the remaining regions subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and northern and central Grisons, they are to be found above approximately 2000 m. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, the rest of Valais, Upper Engadine, Bergell and Puschlav, they are to be found above approximately 2200 m. Transitions into gullies and bowls and abrupt changes in slope angle 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. In some cases, these can reach medium size.

Careful route selection is important in all regions.

Southern flank of the Alps (central part):

Low avalanche danger (level 1)

Locations prone to dry avalanches are still to be found in extremely steep terrain in particular. Sluffs can sweep people along and give rise to falls.

In all the regions of the Swiss Alps, a considerable danger (level 3) of full- depth and wet snow avalanches exists. Irrespective of the time of day, natural wet snow avalanches are to be expected below approximately 2000 m. Natural full- depth avalanches are to be expected up to high altitudes. This danger is indicated by fresh glide cracks in the snowpack. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Wednesday will be mostly sunny with a strong foehn wind in the north. Snow will fall in the south. On Thursday snow will fall over a wide area. The danger of dry avalanches will increase especially in the south on Wednesday, but in the other regions as well on Thursday. The danger of wet snow and full-depth avalanches will decrease slowly from Thursday.

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: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

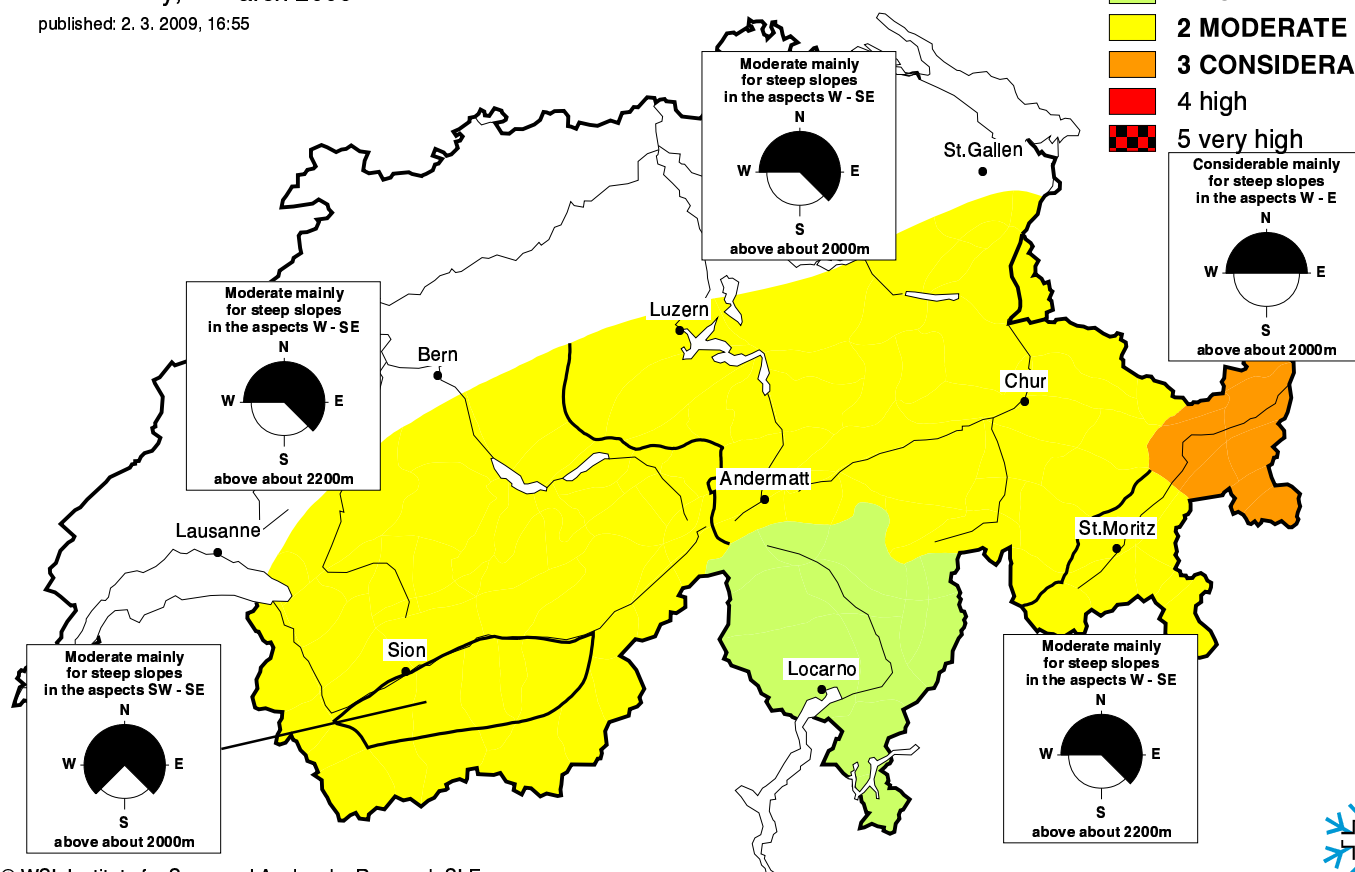
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Tuesday, 3. March 2009

published: 2. 3. 2009, 16:55

Danger level

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



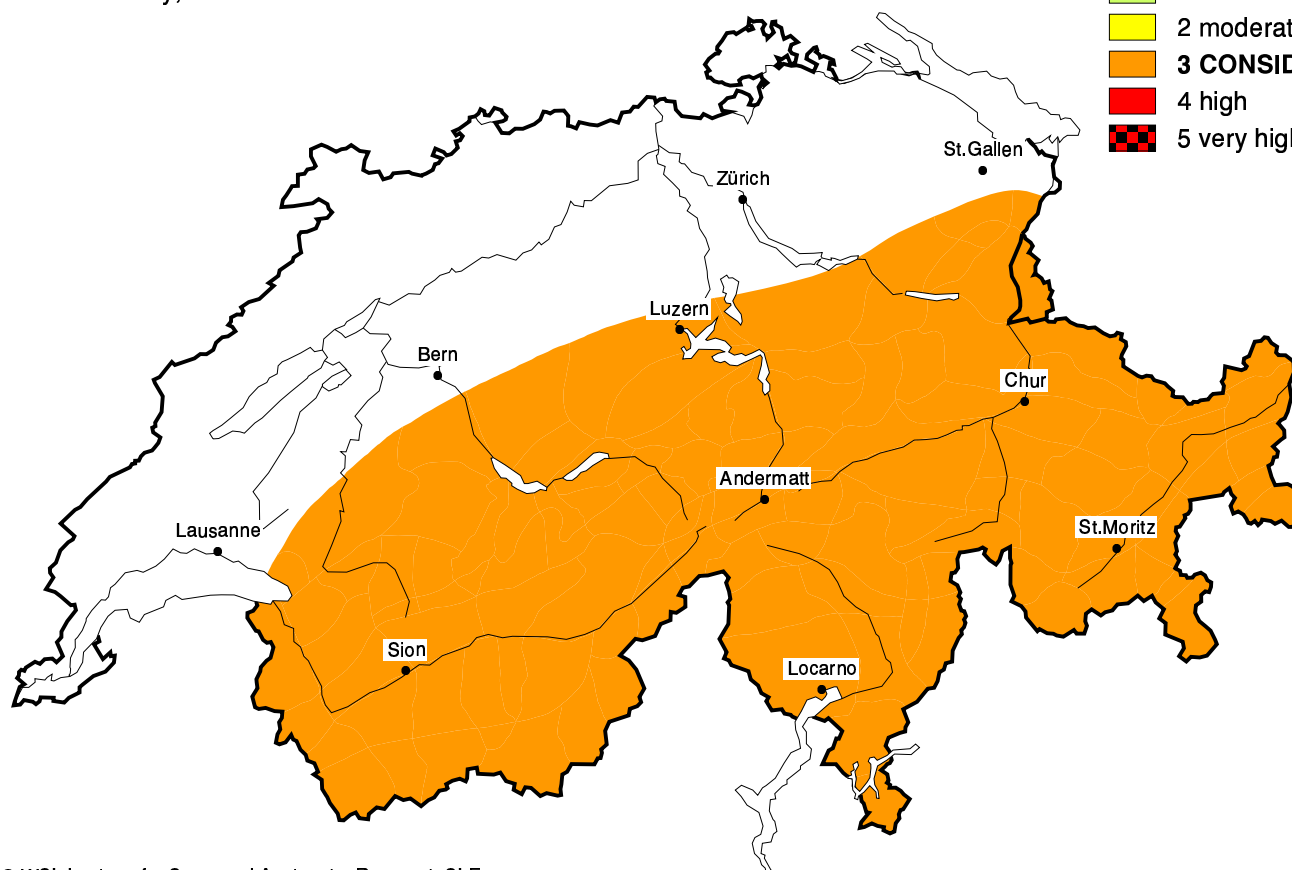
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Danger of wet snow avalanches and full-depth snow slides

for Tuesday, 3. March 2009

Danger level

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



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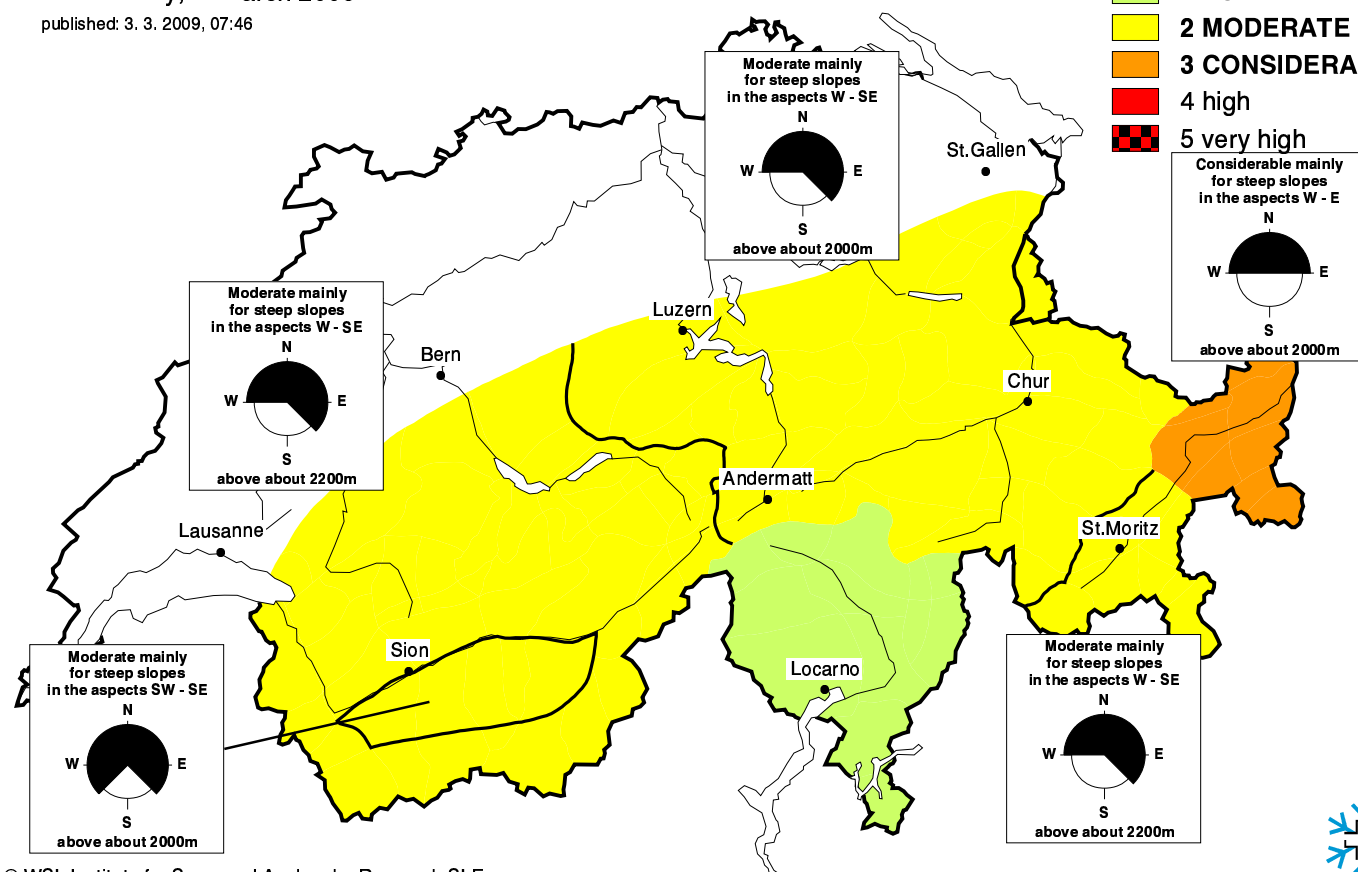
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Tuesday, 3. March 2009

published: 3. 3. 2009, 07:46

Danger level

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



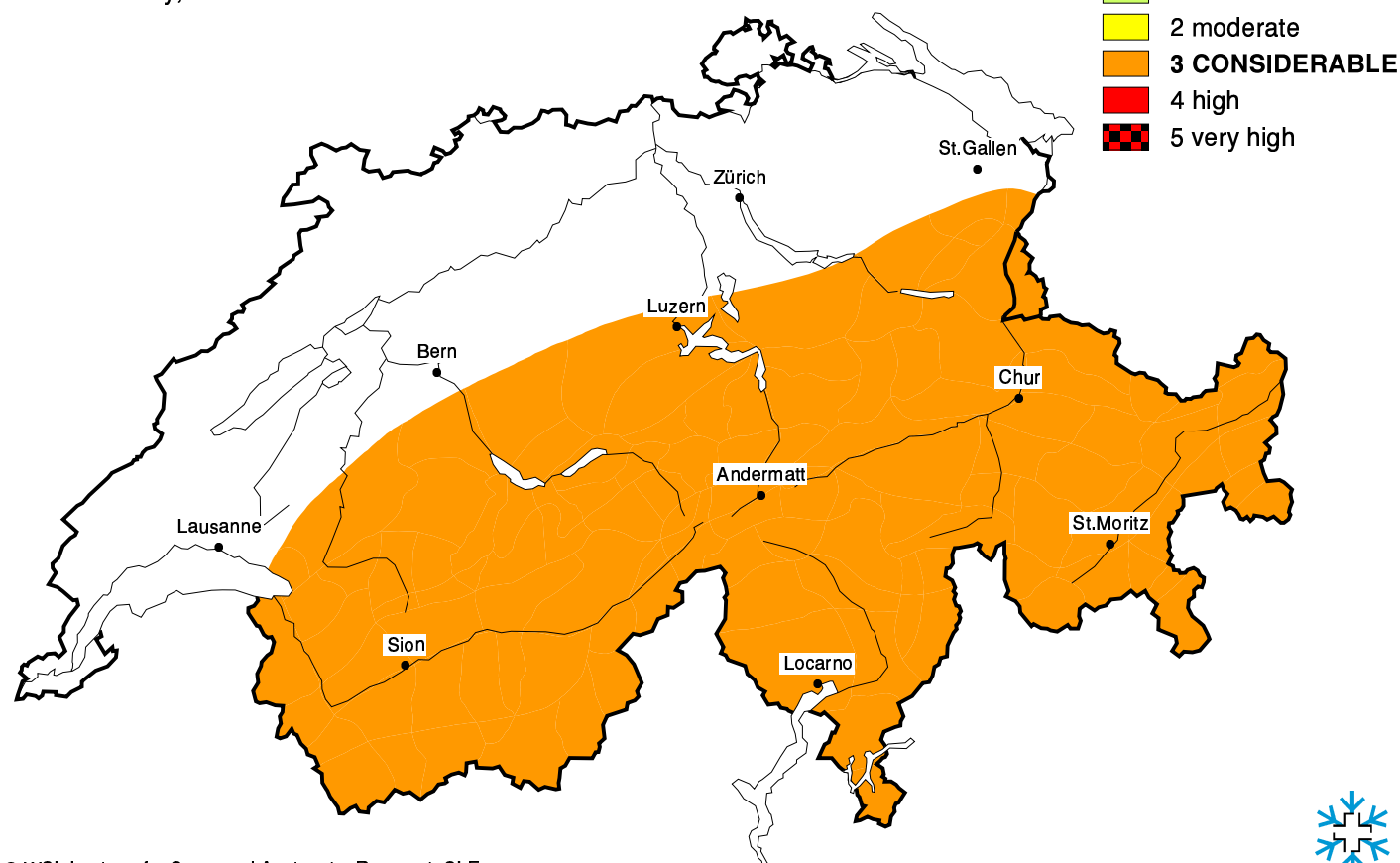
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