

# National avalanche bulletin no. 124

for Sunday, 8 March 2009

issue date 7.3.2009, 18:30 hours

***Considerable avalanche danger, beware escalating hazards in daytime cycle***

## Current conditions

On Saturday it was predominantly sunny in western and southern regions and predominantly overcast in eastern regions. The snowfall came to an end in northeastern regions on Saturday morning. From Friday evening until Saturday on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Valais and in northern Grisons above approximately 1000 m, there was 15 to 30 cm of new snow. In the remaining Valais and in central Grisons, there was about 10 cm of snowfall, elsewhere less. Over the course of three days, from Wednesday until Saturday afternoon, above approximately 1500 m on the northern flank of the Alps, in Upper Valais, in the Gotthard region, in Ticino and in the Bernina region, there has been 50 to 80 cm of new snow, elsewhere 25 to 50 cm. On Saturday the midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 8 degrees in northern regions and minus 3 degrees in southern regions. A moderate to strong northerly wind was blowing. In northern regions in particular, large sized snowdrift accumulations have formed in places.

In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons in particular, the very thick snowpack which prevails widespread is prone to triggering even down to its lowermost layers. Poorly consolidated, faceted layers are embedded in it or the entire foundation of the snowpack is weak. This is particularly the case for areas near the treeline.

## Short-term development

On Saturday night it is expected to be generally clear. On Sunday, quite sunny conditions are anticipated to begin with. In the course of the day, clouds will move in over the northern flank of the Alps in particular. Temperatures are expected to increase: at 2000 m at midday it will be minus 3 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. Strong westerly to northwesterly winds will prevail. The loosely packed layers of the snowpack nearest to the surface will be transported. In the course of the day, the snowpack will be weakened through the daytime warming cycle and solar radiation.

## Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps; Jura:

*Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

In all regions, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in all expositions. The avalanche danger will increase over the course of the day.

On the northern flank of the Alps and on the southern flank of the Alps not including the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 1600 m. Avalanches can be triggered in new fallen snow and snowdrift above all else. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases over the course of the day.

In the Valais not including the southern Simplon region, in central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 1800 m. Avalanches can be easily triggered. Naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture down to the old snowpack and attain medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes may be placed at risk.

In the Jura, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes above approximately 1400 m; in northern Grisons, primarily on wind loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. In these regions, the major hazard stems from the snowdrift accumulations of the last few days.

In all regions, avalanches can be triggered by a single backcountry skier or freerider. In order to evaluate the avalanche situation, a great deal of experience is necessary.

In all regions, full depth snowslides are possible below about 2500 m. Fresh glide cracks are indicators of these danger spots. In the course of the day, particularly in southern regions below about 2200 m on steep, sun-bathed slopes and hillsides adjacent to roads, moist avalanches can be expected. Such avalanches can place exposed parts of transportation routes at risk.

## Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On both days it will be heavily overcast in northern regions. Repeated snowfall is expected, accompanied by strong westerly winds. The snowfall level will be below 1000 m. On the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine, some snowfall is expected from the north; in far southern regions it will be partly sunny. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly in northern regions; in southern regions it will tend to diminish.

### 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  
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### Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

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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

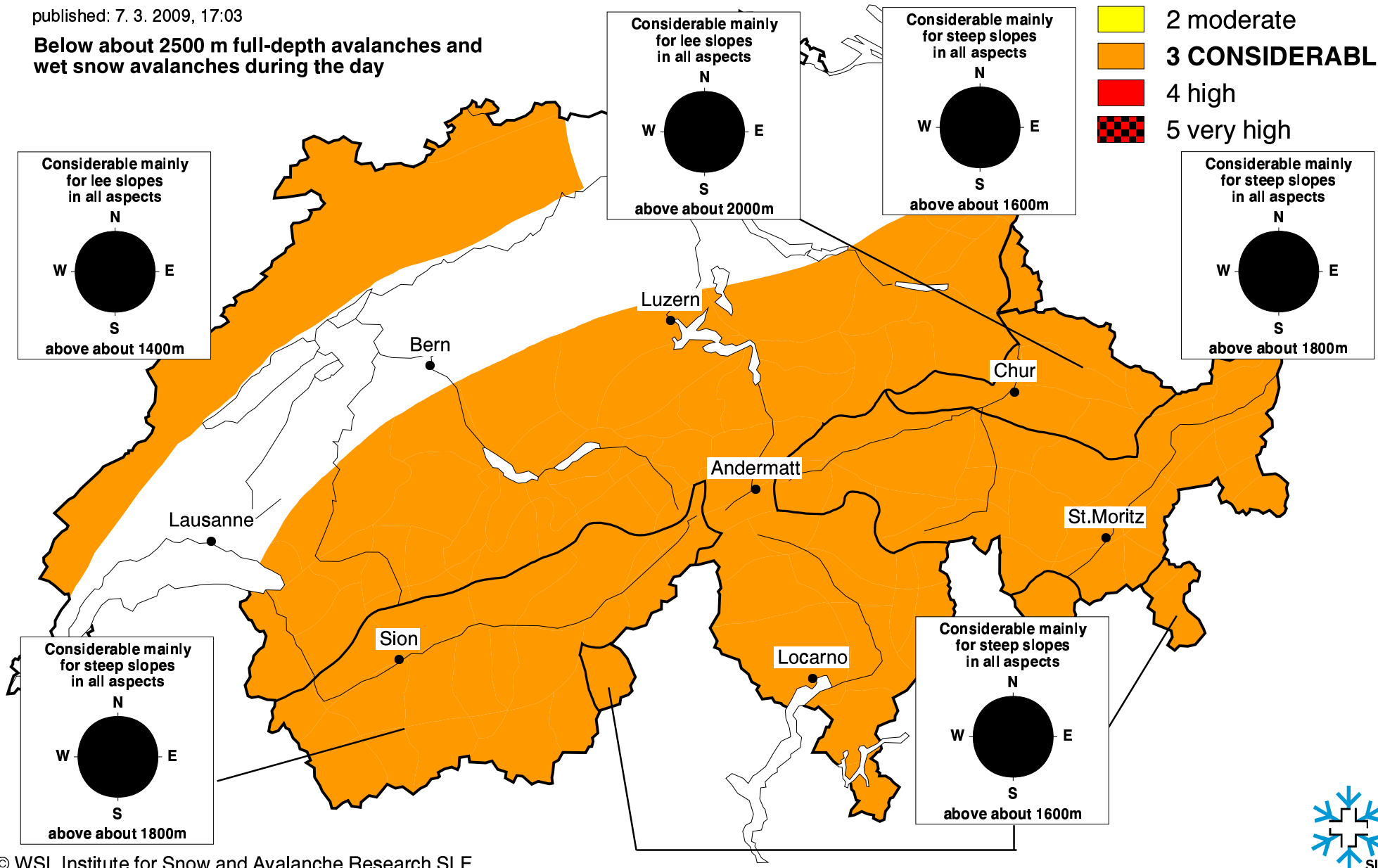
for Sunday, 8. March 2009

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Below about 2500 m full-depth avalanches and wet snow avalanches during the day

## Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 8. March 2009

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Below about 2500 m full-depth avalanches and wet snow avalanches during the day

Danger level

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

