

National avalanche bulletin no. 127

for Wednesday, 11 March 2009

issue date 10.3.2009, 18:30 hours

High avalanche danger in some regions

Current conditions

From Monday evening until Tuesday morning, 10 to 20 cm of snow fell over a wide area on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons. Less snow fell elsewhere. There were some bright spells in Grisons. On the southern flank of the Alps, the weather was sunny. Midday temperatures ranged from minus 7 degrees in the north to minus 4 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps. The west to southwesterly wind was light to moderate, but strong at times. In the afternoon, further precipitation arrived from the northwest.

Since the precipitation began on Sunday evening, 20 to 30 cm of snow has fallen on the northern flank of the Alps and in western Lower Valais, and as much as 50 cm has fallen in the Glarus Alps. In Valais, the Gotthard region, northern Grisons and Lower Engadine, the quantities of new snow are 15 to 20 cm, but less than 10 cm has fallen further to the south.

A lot of snow has been transported by the strong wind since Sunday evening. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and in Lower Engadine in particular, the mostly thick snowpack is prone to triggering even in the deeper layers. Weakly bonded, faceted layers exist in the snowpack here; in some cases, the entire base of the snowpack is weak. These conditions also prevail close to the tree line in particular. The bonding of the snowpack is most favourable on the southern flank of the Alps.

Short-term development

Further snowfalls are to be expected on Tuesday night. From the eastern Bernese Oberland to the Alpstein region, and in Goms, the Gotthard region, northern Grisons and Lower Engadine, 20 to 30 cm of snow will fall, or even more in some localities. In the other parts of the northern flank of the Alps, central Grisons and western Lower Valais, 10 to 20 cm of snow is to be expected, but less will fall elsewhere. The snowfall level will be approximately 1000 m. The wind will be moderate to strong, from the northwest.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss, excluding the prealps; Lower Engadine:

High avalanche danger (level 4)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Medium-sized natural avalanches and, in many cases, large avalanches are to be expected. These can endanger exposed parts of transportation routes. Avalanche activity is expected to peak during Tuesday night. During the day the situation will remain treacherous, especially for snow sport participants venturing off the open pistes.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; northern and central Grisons; Upper Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In the relevant regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, the Gotthard region, northern Grisons and Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. A single person can easily release avalanches in the near-surface layers of the snowpack. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and in Münstertal, avalanches can be released in deeper layers of the old snowpack and reach medium size. Natural avalanches are possible in the inneralpine regions and other regions with a lot of fresh snow. In isolated cases they can endanger exposed parts of transportation routes.

In central Grisons and Upper Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Fresh snow drift accumulations behind abrupt changes in slope angle, and in gullies and bowls, can be released easily and are to be avoided.

Northern Ticino excluding Val Bedretto and Upper Valle Leventina; also central Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; Bergell; Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m and adjacent to the ridge line in all aspects. Fresh snow drift accumulations must be evaluated with care and prudence.

Southern Ticino:

Low avalanche danger (level 1)

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday, the weather will be cloudy in the north and mostly sunny in Valais, on the southern flank of the Alps and in Engadine. It will be mostly sunny in all regions on Friday. The weather will become much milder. The danger of dry avalanches will gradually decrease. On Friday in particular, the danger of avalanches will vary during 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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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

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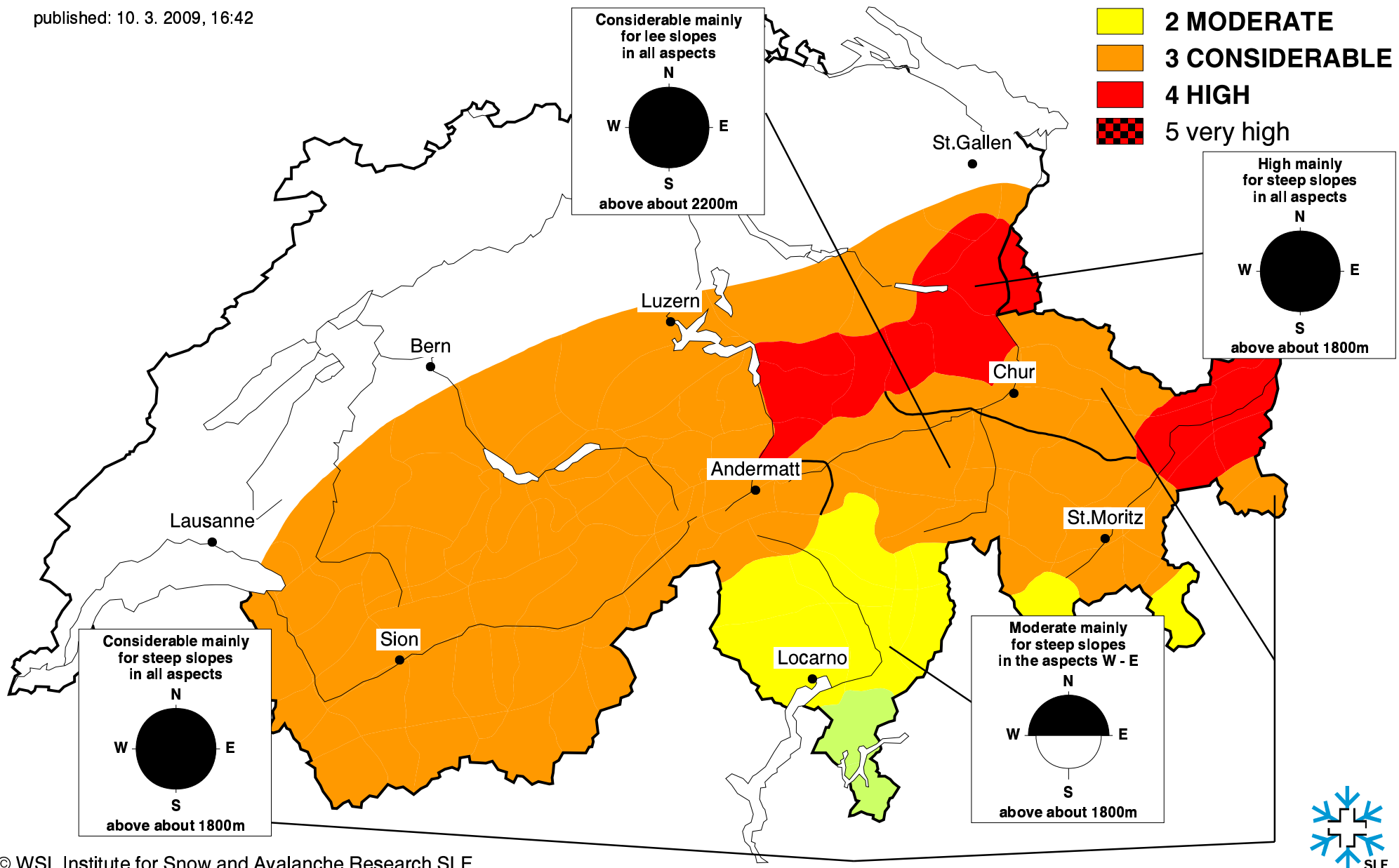
Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 11. March 2009

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 11. March 2009

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Danger level

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

