

National avalanche bulletin no. 129

for Friday, 13 March 2009

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Avalanche danger is considerable widespread

Current conditions

On Thursday it was predominantly sunny in southern regions; in western regions there were bright spells. In northeastern regions it was generally overcast and there was a bit of snowfall over the course of the day. The midday temperature at 2000 m was zero degrees in western and southern regions; and minus 5 degrees in eastern regions. A moderate to strong northwesterly wind was blowing.

The new fallen snow of this week is settling and consolidating incrementally. On sunny slopes in western and southern regions, a crust is forming on the snow surface. Due to strong winds, snow has been ongoingly transported at higher altitudes in particular. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and in the Lower Engadine, the generally thick snowpack is prone to triggering even down to its lowermost layers.

Short-term development

On Thursday night it will be clear in the Valais and in southern regions. During the day on Friday it will also clear up gradually in northern regions. In far northeastern regions it will be predominantly overcast and up to 10 cm of new snow is expected. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 1 degree in western and southern regions, minus 4 degrees in eastern regions. On Thursday night, strong to stormy northwesterly winds are expected to prevail, during the day on Friday winds will be moderate to strong.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; Val Blenio; northern and central Grisons; Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the eastern Bernese Oberland, in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the northern Surselva, in northern Grisons, in the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. In Chablais, in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, in the western Bernese Oberland and in the Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. Single persons can trigger avalanches. Especially freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be assessed with great caution. Natural avalanches are possible in isolated cases in the inneralpine regions of the Valais, in the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal in particular. Such avalanches could well attain medium size. The situation requires a great deal of experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards.

In the Bedrettal, in the upper Leventina, in Val Blenio and in remaining central Grisons and the Upper Engadine, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Cautious route selection is important.

Upper Maggia valleys; lower Leventina; central Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; Bergell; Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be evaluated with great caution.

Sotto Ceneri:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Particularly in northern and western regions, moist sluffs and full depth snowslides will be possible in the course of the day below about 2000 m.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

In northern regions it is expected to be predominantly sunny on Saturday. In the course of the day, clouds will become increasingly frequent and intermittent showers are anticipated. On Sunday, conditions will be variable. In southern regions it will be generally sunny. It is expected to remain mild. The avalanche danger will gradually subside, but nevertheless be subject each day to a daytime warming cycle.

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>

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

Feedback information:

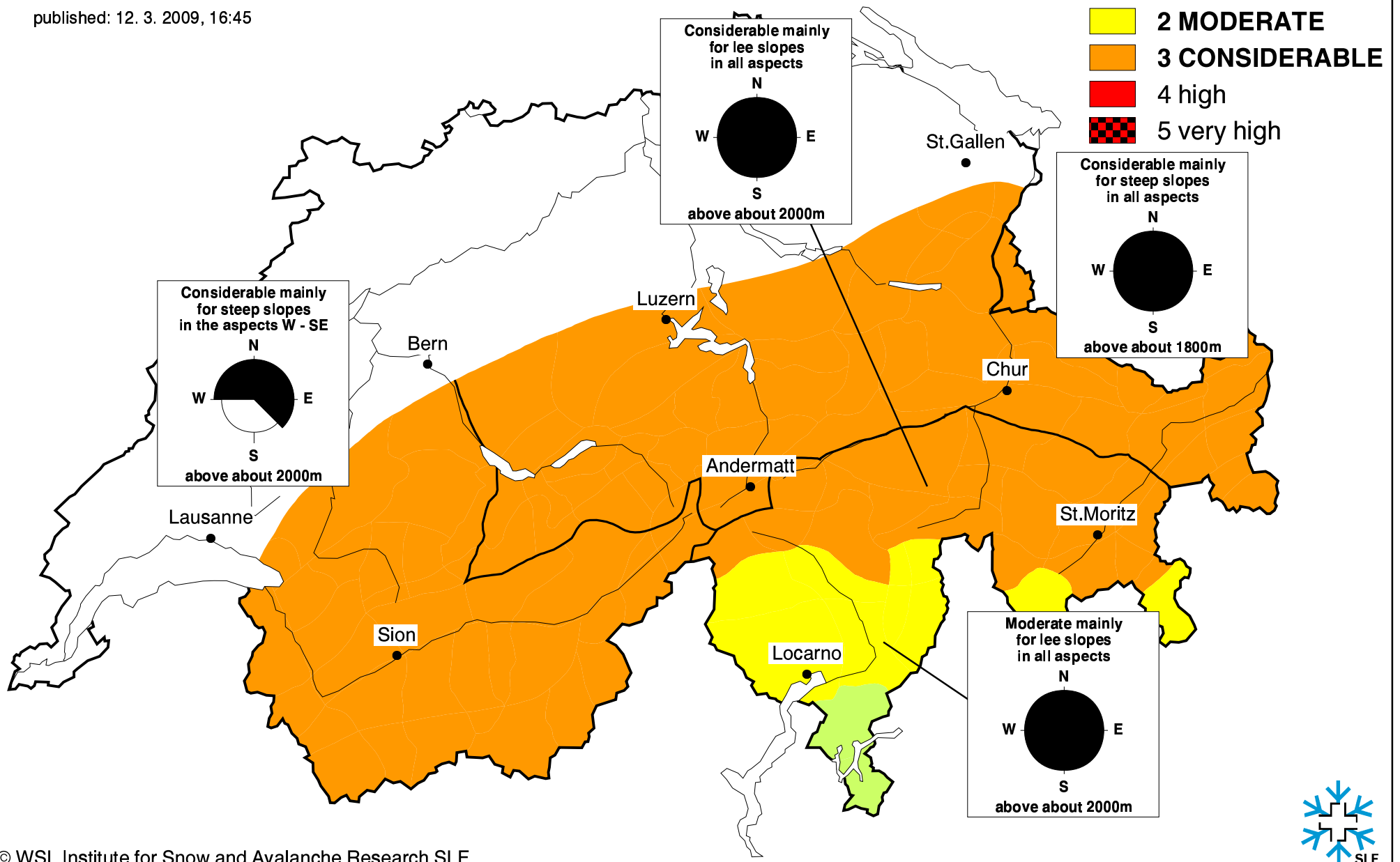
Email: lwp@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

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