



# National avalanche bulletin no. 130

for Saturday, 14 March 2009

issue date 13.3.2009, 18:30 hours

## *Considerable avalanche danger widespread, beware daytime warming cycle*

### Current conditions

On Friday it was sunny in western and southern regions. In northeastern regions there were bright spells through the course of the day. Temperatures rose significantly and at 2000 m at midday were plus 2 degrees in western regions, minus 2 degrees in eastern regions and plus 5 degrees in southern regions. A strong to stormy northwesterly wind was blowing on Thursday night, during the day on Friday it was moderate to strong.

At higher altitudes, further snowdrift accumulations have formed. Through the daytime warming, the likelihood of triggering avalanches has increased significantly. Natural avalanches were unleashed in some places. There is still a great deal of snow. Many avalanche corridors have still not been discharged. Particularly in the southern Valais, in the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, the snow layering is poor. Avalanches can fracture down to the lowermost fundament, which is weak.

### Short-term development

On Friday night it will be partially clear. Due to the outgoing nocturnal radiation, the snowpack can become firmer temporarily. On Saturday it will be predominantly sunny. In eastern and southern regions, cloudbanks will still be evident in the morning hours in particular. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 3 to plus 5 degrees. Moderate westerly to northwesterly winds will prevail.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; Val Blenio; northern Grisons; central Grisons and Upper Engadine not including Main Alpine Ridge from Rheinwald to the Bernina Pass:

*Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Tavetsch, 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 2000 m. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps 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. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in particular should be evaluated with great caution. Natural avalanches are possible. Especially in the inneralpine regions of the Valais, in the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, these natural avalanches can attain medium size. The situation requires a great deal of experience in assessing the hazards of avalanches.

In the Bedrettal, in the upper Leventina, in Val Blenio and in the remaining indicated regions of 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; Main Alpine Ridge from Rheinwald to the Bernina Pass and regions south thereof:

*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)*

In the course of the daytime warming cycle, the likelihood of dry avalanches being triggered will increase in all regions. Below about 2200 m, the danger of wet snow avalanches will escalate to "considerable" (Level 3) widespread on steep, sun-bathed slopes in particular. In the course of the day, medium sized and in isolated cases even large sized natural avalanches are possible. Full depth snowslides continue to be expected.

### Trend for Sunday and Monday

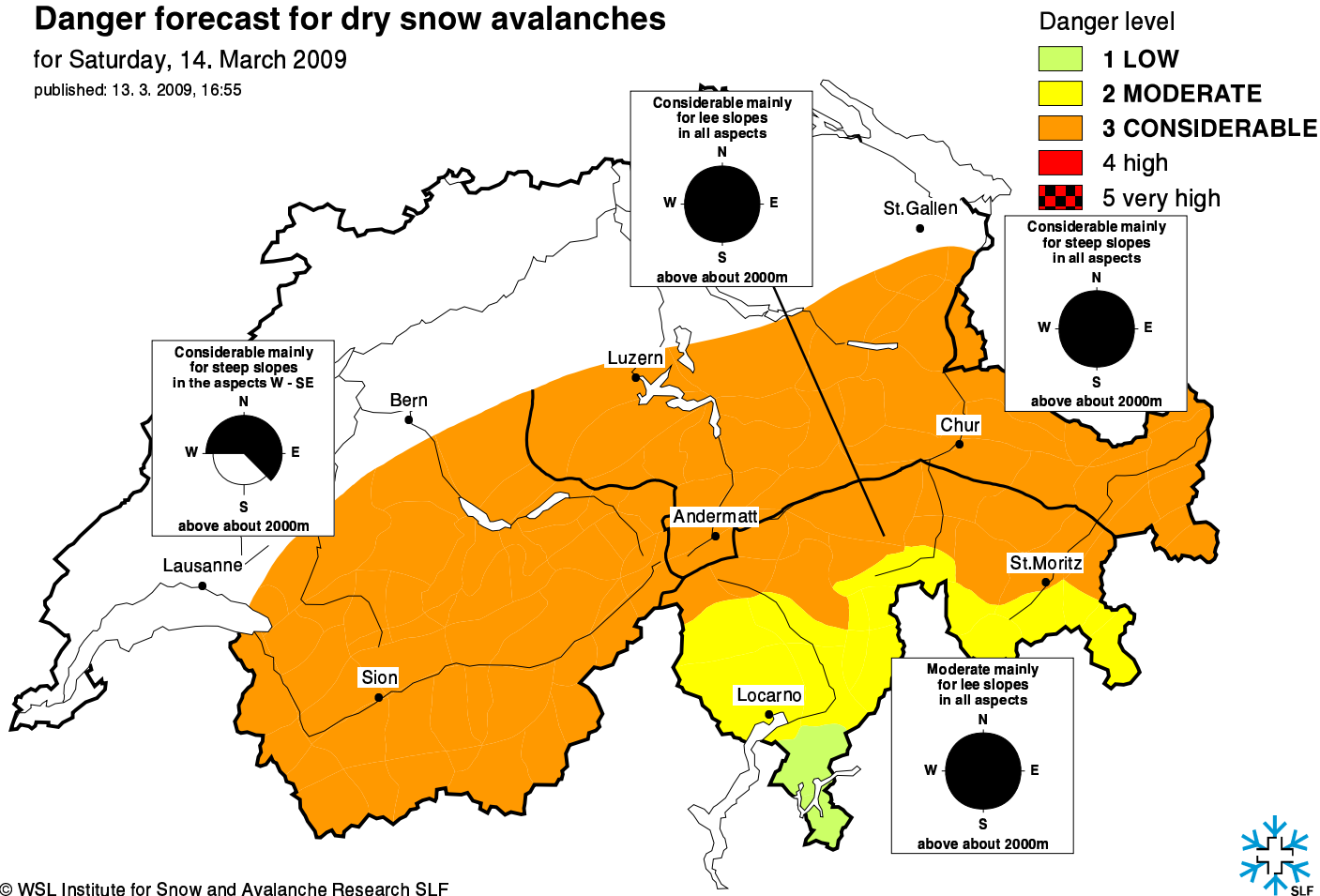
On Sunday, temperatures will drop. Conditions are expected to be variably cloudy and in northern regions some snowfall is anticipated. On Monday it will be predominantly sunny. The avalanche danger will subside.

<b>National avalanche bulletin as an MMS</b> (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)	<b>Regional avalanche bulletins</b> (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	<b>Internet:</b> <a href="http://www.slf.ch">http://www.slf.ch</a> <b>WAP:</b> <a href="http://wap.slf.ch">wap.slf.ch</a> <b>Teletext:</b> Page 782 (SF DRS) <b>Phone:</b> 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min) <b>Feedback information:</b> Email: <a href="mailto:lw@slf.ch">lw@slf.ch</a> Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88
Weather Information in collaboration with <b>MeteoSwiss</b> 0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax (phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)		

# Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 14. March 2009

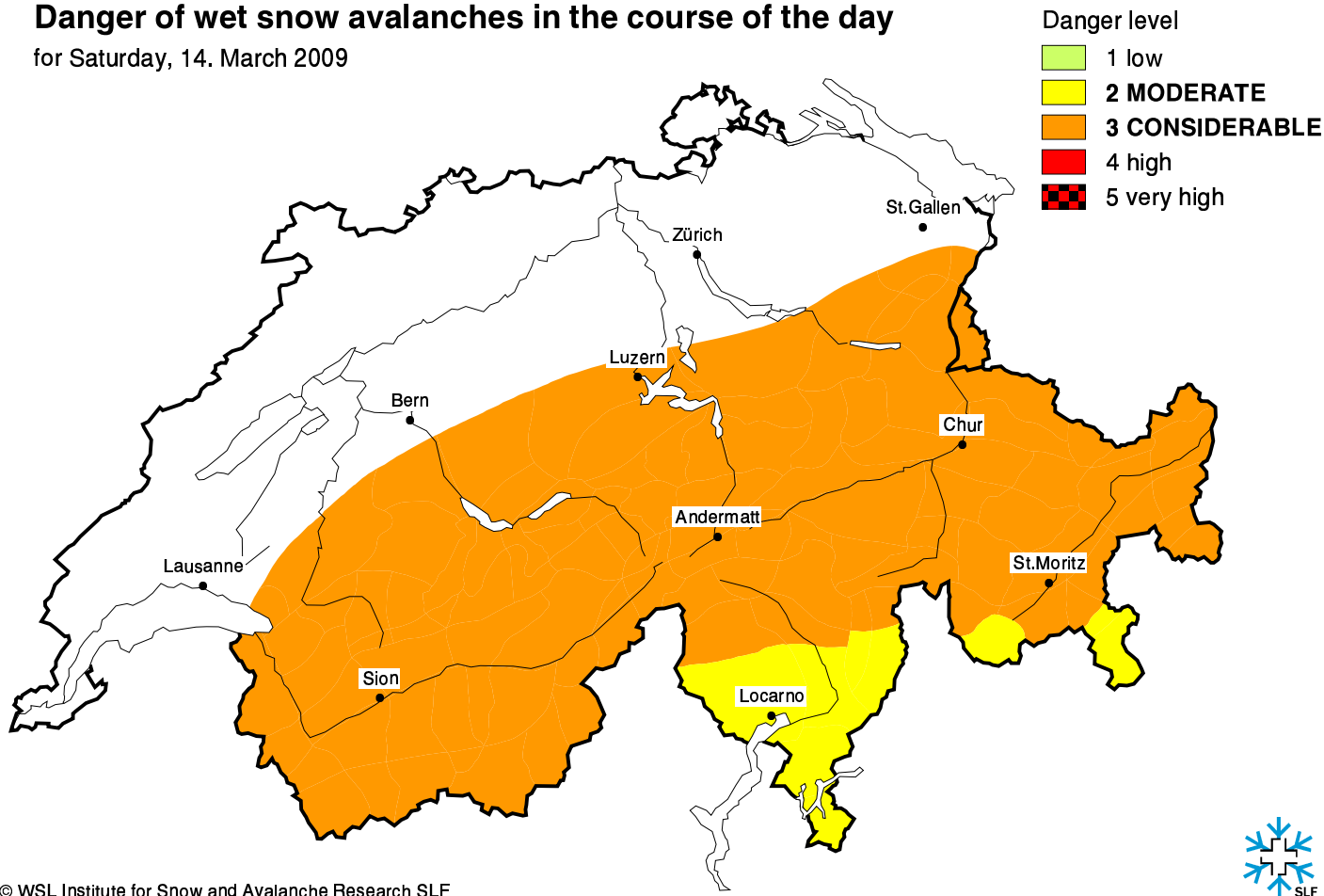
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# Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Saturday, 14. March 2009

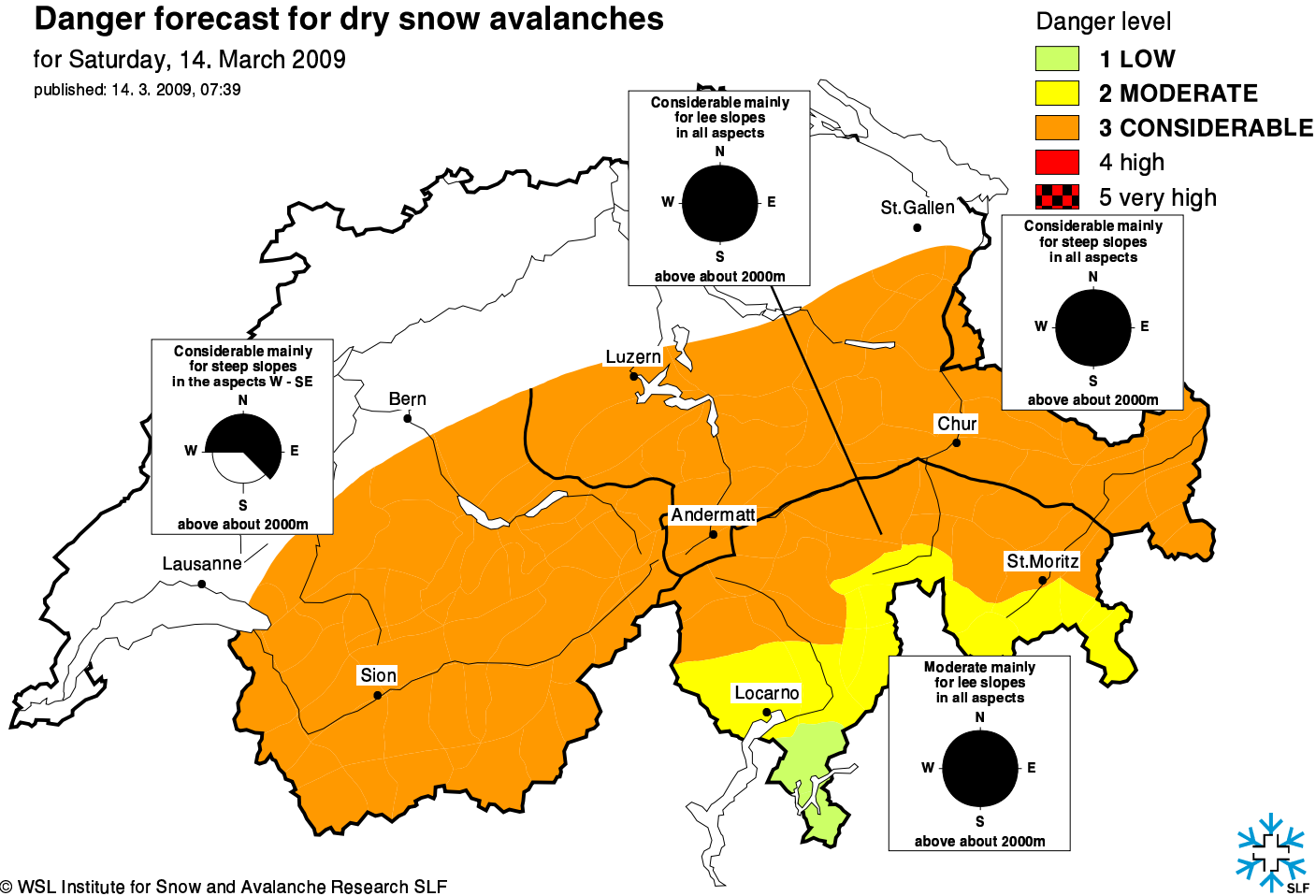


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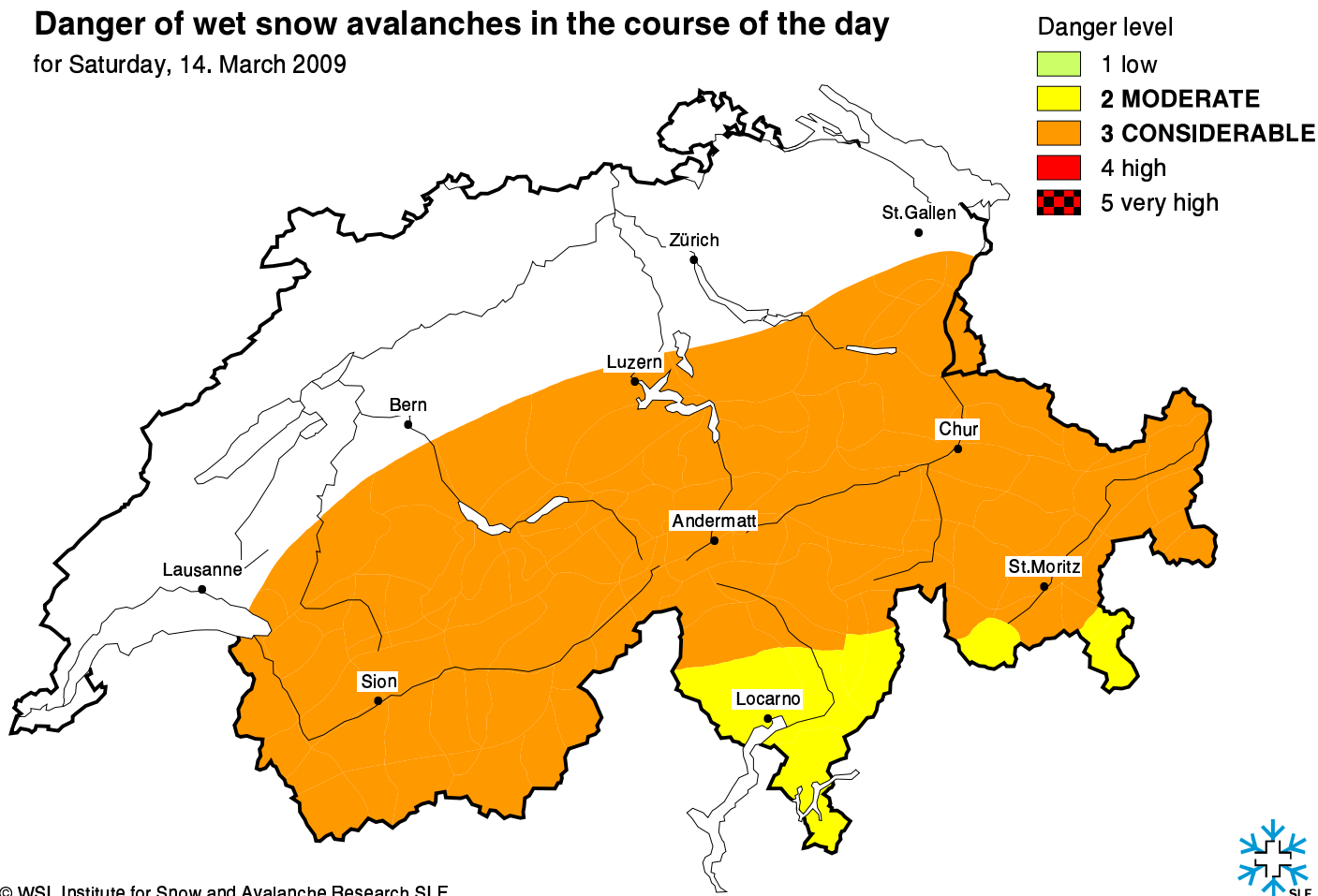
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# Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Saturday, 14. March 2009



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