

## National avalanche bulletin no. 136

for Friday, 20 March 2009

issue date 19.3.2009, 18:30 hours

### *Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift accumulations and full depth snowslides*

#### Current conditions

On Thursday it was generally sunny to begin with, following a clear night. During the afternoon, clouds built up in northern and eastern regions. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 5 degrees in eastern regions, elsewhere zero degrees. A light northwesterly wind was blowing in western regions, in other regions the wind was of moderate strength.

At 2000 m in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Gotthard region and in the upper Maggia valleys, there is still more than 200 cm of snow. In the remaining regions there is 120 to 200 cm widespread. The avalanche corridors have been flattened and planed by avalanche discharges in places. Full depth snowslides can thus advance great distances.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday night it will be clear in the Valais and Ticino, elsewhere partly overcast. During the day on Friday it will be variably cloudy in northern regions, with some snow showers. In western and southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. The temperatures are expected to drastically decrease and at 2000 m reach minus 10 degrees by midday. Strong to stormy northeasterly winds are expected to prevail.

Primarily on steep, south facing slopes below about 2800 m, a crust capable of bearing loads is expected to form. The crust will then soften over the course of the day in western and southern regions in particular. In all regions, small sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form due to storm strength winds.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern Alpine Ridge; Valais not including southern Simplon region; in addition, southern Urseren; northern and central Grisons; Engadine; Münstertal:

##### *Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in gullies and bowls in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. Freshly formed, usually small sized snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered. These can in turn sweep along persons and cause them to fall. Particularly in shady, windblown transition areas with shallow snow to gullies and bowls, as well as at sharp breaks in the terrain, even older, somewhat thicker layers of the snowpack can be triggered as avalanches in isolated cases. In the central Valais, the Lower Engadine and the Münstertal in particular, isolated fractures in the lowermost, poorly consolidated layers of the snowpack are still possible.

Remaining northern flank of the Alps; southern Simplon region; central part of the southern flank of the Alps; Bergell; Puschlav:

##### *Low avalanche danger (Level 1)*

Isolated avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are still to be found primarily in extremely steep, shady terrain. In addition, small sized, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can cause backcountry skiers and freeriders to fall.

Full depth snowslides continue to be very active at the present time and can be unleashed at any time of day. Exposed parts of transportation routes can be put at risk in isolated cases. Below about 2000 m, the hazards of wet snow avalanches on steep, strongly sun-bathed slopes are expected to increase slightly over the course of the day.

#### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday and Sunday it will be predominantly sunny. On Sunday, temperatures will rise again. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to recede. The danger of wet avalanches will again increase, especially over the course of the day on Sunday. Full depth snowslides continue to be possible.

#### 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](http://wap.slf.ch)

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

#### Feedback information:

Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

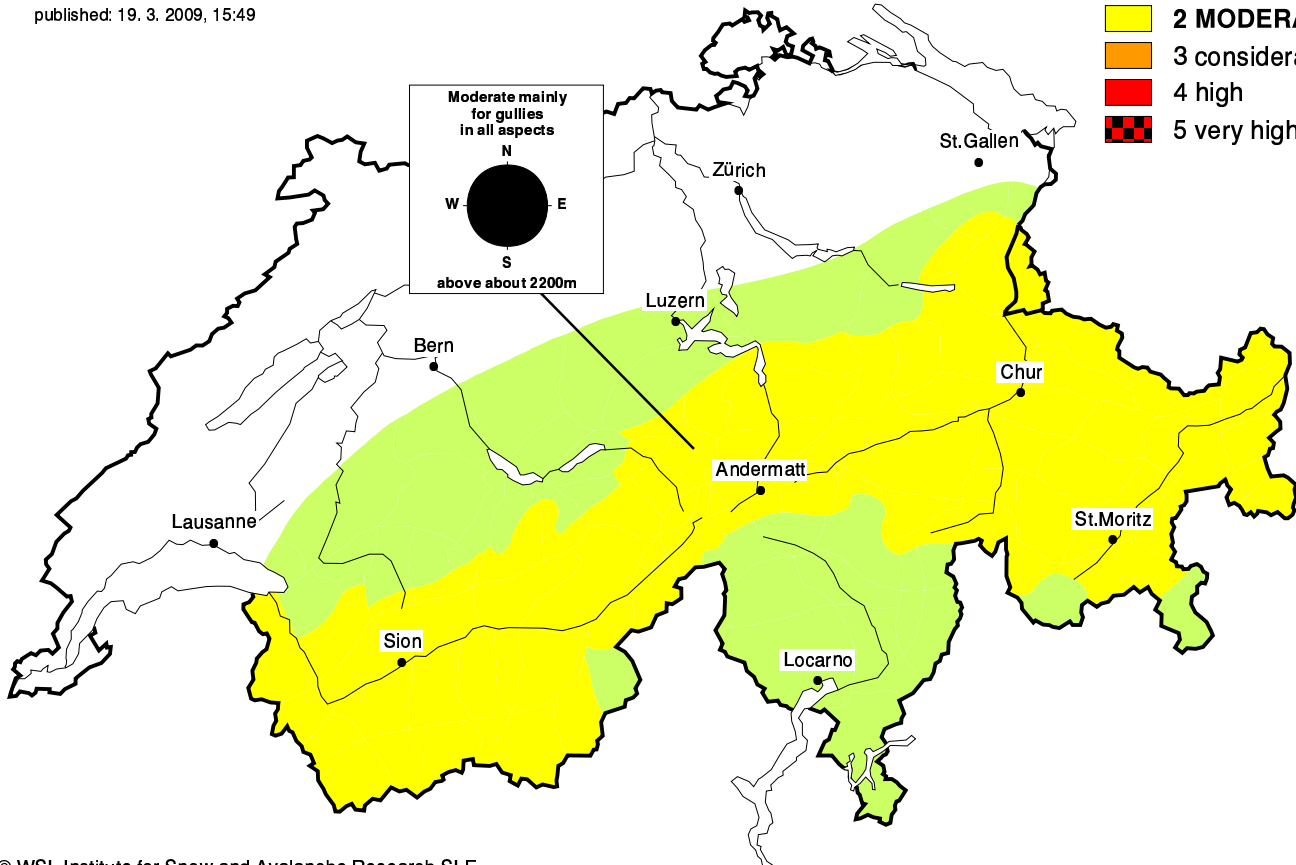
# Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 20. March 2009

published: 19. 3. 2009, 15:49

Danger level






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

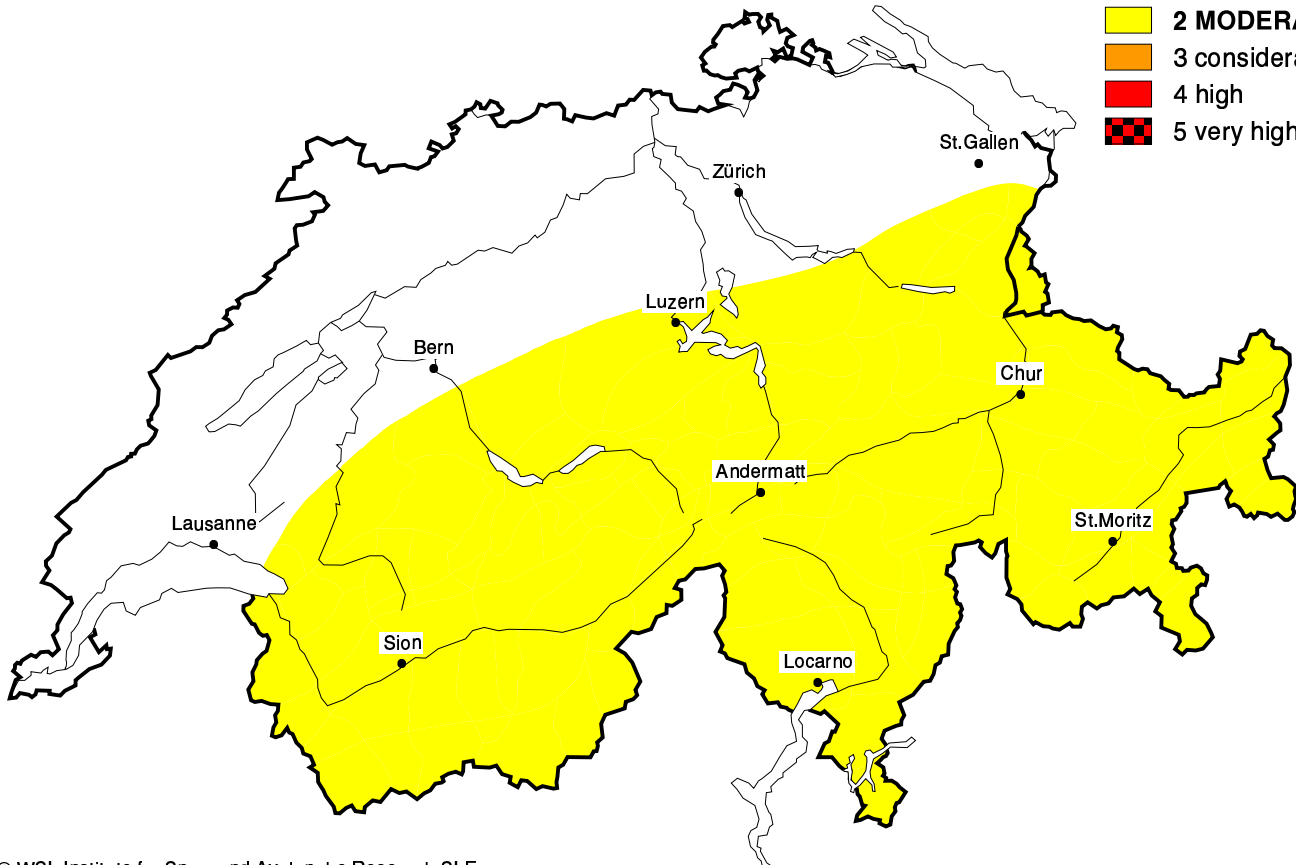


# Danger of full-depth snow slides

for Friday, 20. March 2009

Danger level

-  1 low
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 considerable
-  4 high
-  5 very high








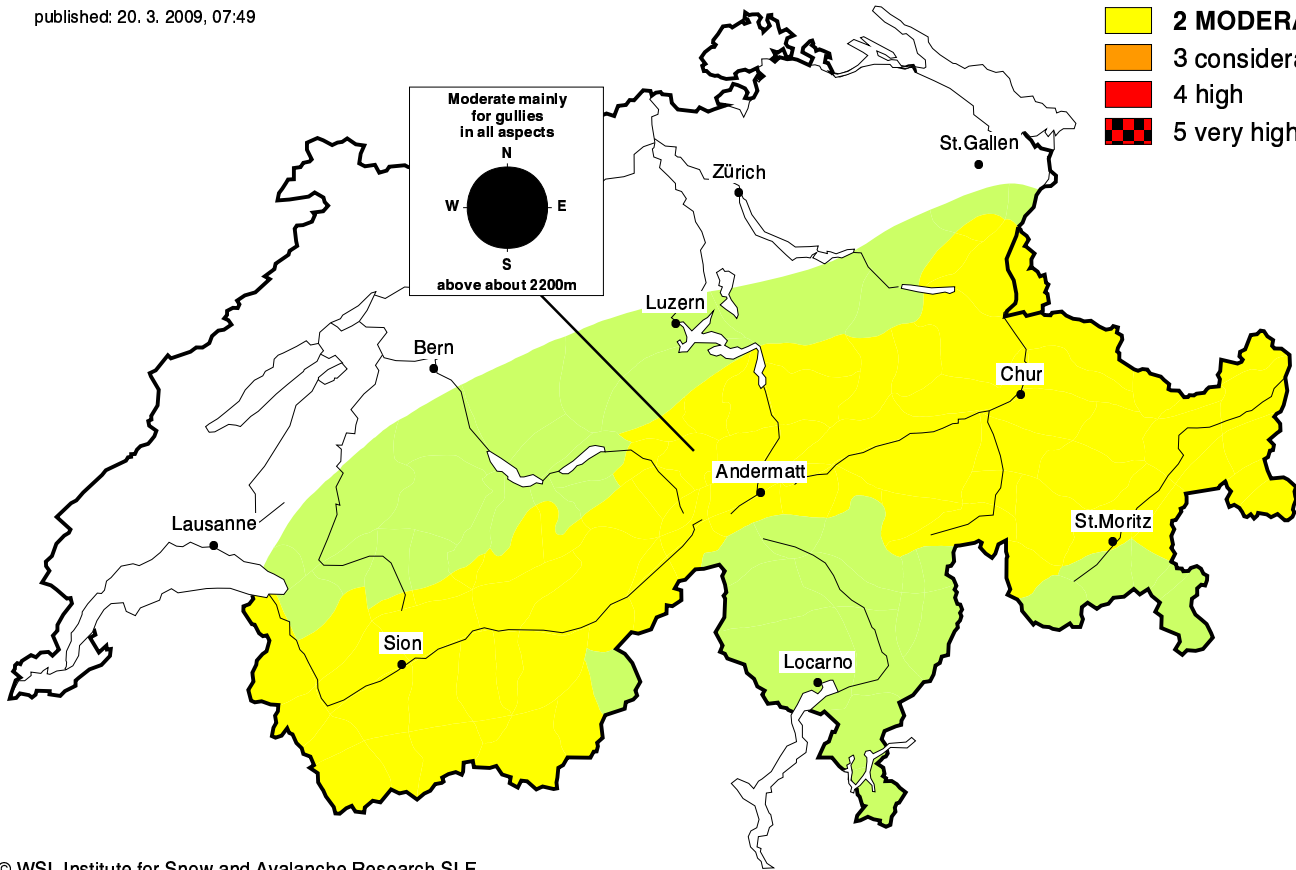
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