

## National avalanche bulletin no. 150

for Friday, 3 April 2009

issue date 2.4.2009, 18:30 hours

### *Escalating avalanche danger through the course of the day*

#### Current conditions

On Thursday it was overcast with a few intermittent bright spells in eastern regions in particular. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, there was a bit of snowfall from region to region above approximately 2000 m, along the Italian border from Monte Rosa to the Simplon Pass about 20 to 40 cm. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 7 degrees in northern regions and plus 2 degrees in southern regions. A moderate southeasterly wind was blowing, in high alpine regions the wind was strong.

Since the snowpack has become thoroughly wet, increasingly frequent fracturing down to the lowermost layers is possible. Particularly in southern Valais and in the Lower Engadine, avalanches can break through down to the fundament and in isolated cases attain larger size.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday night it is expected to clear up in northern regions and during the day on Friday it will turn quite sunny. Along the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, a bit of snowfall is expected on Thursday night above 2000 m. During the day on Friday, the sun will make itself felt to an ever greater extent. Light southeasterly winds will prevail. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 2 degrees.

In northern regions where the snow surface has frozen and is capable of bearing loads, quite favourable backcountry touring conditions are expected to prevail during the morning hours.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Upper valleys of Visp and southern Simplon region, particularly in the areas along the Italian border:

*Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to east facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2500 m. The snowdrift accumulations can be triggered as avalanches through minimum additional loading. Great experience in the evaluation of the avalanche situation is imperative.

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; in addition, remaining Valais; northern and central Ticino; Grisons:

*Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2400 m. In areas with shallow snow in particular, dry avalanches can be triggered primarily through large additional loading. In addition, particularly in high alpine regions, usually rather small sized snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering have formed. A prudent route selection is recommended.

Northern Prealps; Sotto Ceneri:

*Low avalanche danger (Level 1)*

Isolated avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are still to be found on extremely steep slopes.

In all regions, the hazards of wet snow avalanches will escalate significantly over the course of the day and widespread are expected to reach danger level 3, "considerable"; in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, they will reach danger level 2, "moderate". Below approximately 2400 m, particularly on steep, sun-bathed slopes, small and medium sized wet snow avalanches can be expected. However, naturally triggered avalanches which can attain large sizes are also possible, even on north facing slopes. Full depth snowslides are expected to be unleashed more frequently. They can be expected at any time of day.

#### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

In northern regions it is expected to be rather sunny, amid isolated showers during the afternoon. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. Light winds will prevail. It is expected to remain mild. Following clear nights, favourable backcountry touring conditions will prevail during the morning hours, thereafter the hazards of wet snow avalanches will rapidly increase over the course of each 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  
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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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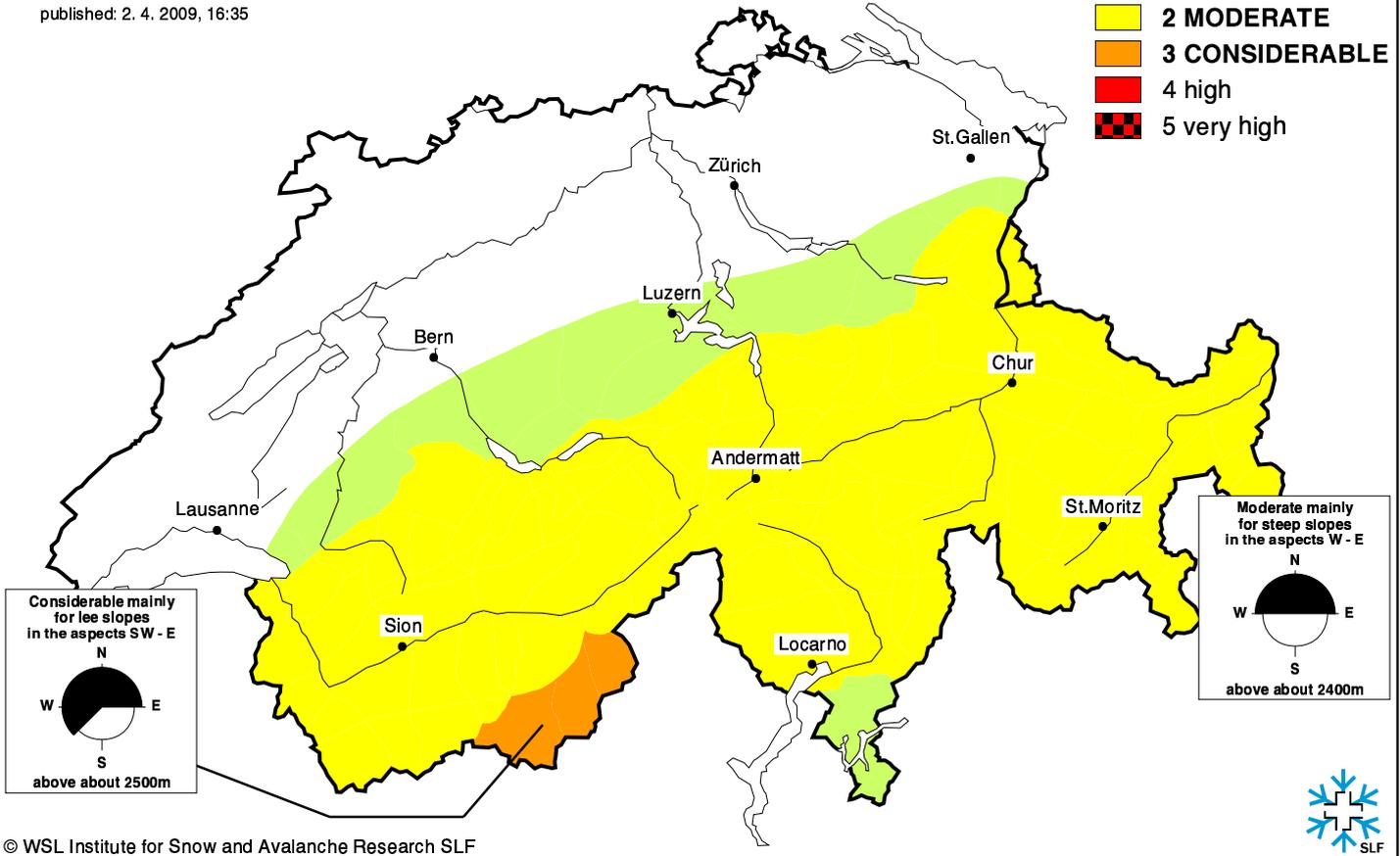
# Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 3. April 2009

published: 2. 4. 2009, 16:35

Danger level

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



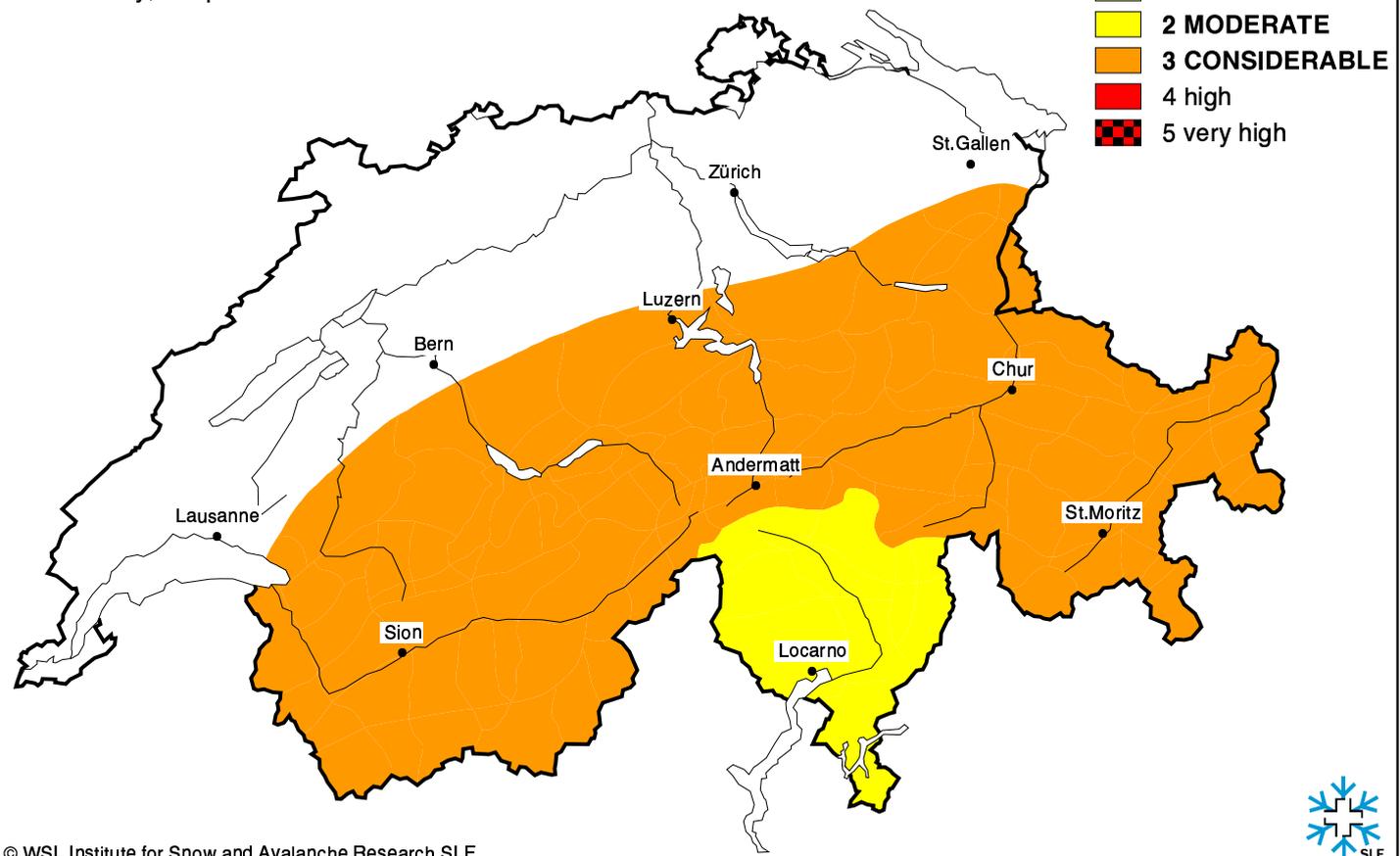
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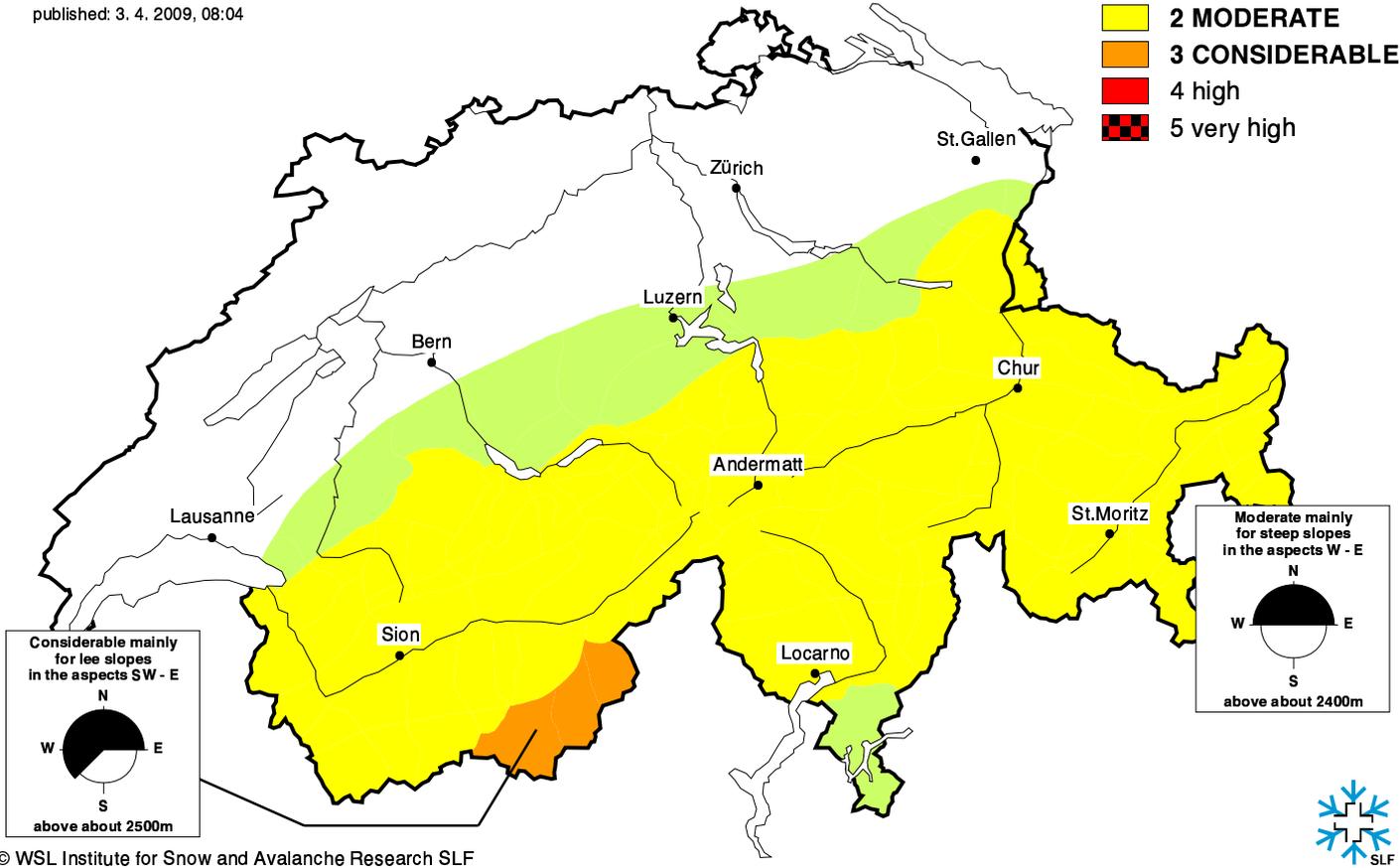
# Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 3. April 2009

published: 3. 4. 2009, 08:04

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