

## National avalanche bulletin no. 164

for Friday, 17 April 2009

issue date 16.4.2009, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable avalanche danger in some areas of southern regions*

#### Current conditions

In the regions exposed to foehn influence in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in northern Grisons, there were recurring bright spells during the day on Thursday. In the remaining regions it was overcast and particularly on the southern flank of the Alps there was snowfall which was intermittently quite heavy. In the Saastal, in the Simplon region, in the Bedretto and in the Maggia valleys, there was 30 to 50 cm of new snow above approximately 2200 m; in the remaining parts of the western and central sectors of the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, as well as in the Bergell, there was 10 to 30 cm. At the periphery of the areas of precipitation, there was less than 10 cm of new snow. The midday temperatures were between plus 4 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. A moderate to strong southerly wind was blowing.

The new snow fell upon a snowpack which is moist on flat surfaced terrain up to approximately 2500 m, on south facing slopes as high as 2700 m, and on north facing slopes as high as approximately 2300 m. Along the southern flank of the Alps, the old snowpack is favourably layered in general. In the remaining regions, weak layers are to some extent embedded inside the snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday night it is expected to snow in all regions; particularly heavy snowfall continues to be anticipated in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps. Above approximately 1600 m along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Monte Rosa region into the Bergell and south thereof, an additional 20 to 30 cm of new snow is expected; along the northern flank of the Alps, 10 to 20 cm; and in the remaining parts of the Valais and Grisons, less than 10 cm. In the upper valleys of the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the snowfall level can drop down to 1000 m. During the day on Friday, it will be variable, amidst scattered snow showers. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 2 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. Winds are expected to shift to westerly and slacken off significantly in strength.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Trient; Champex; western part of Main Alpine Ridge; southern Goms; central part of southern flank of the Alps:

##### *Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. Small and medium sized natural avalanches are possible, which are likely to be triggered primarily on Thursday night or Friday morning. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, great experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards is imperative.

Northern flank of the Alps; remaining parts of Valais; Main Alpine Ridge in central Grisons; Bergell; Corvatsch; Bernina massif; Puschlav:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to south facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m. Snowdrift accumulations are to be found behind sharp breaks in the terrain or in gullies and bowls and can be easily triggered. The amounts of snow which can be unleashed, however, tend to be small sized. In high alpine regions, the danger is more difficult to categorise and applies to all expositions. A prudent route selection is essential.

Northern Grisons; remaining parts of central Grisons and the Engadine; Münstertal:

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

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in extremely steep terrain at high altitudes and in high alpine regions. The major hazard stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations.

In all regions below 2200 m in particular, moist sluffs and wet snow avalanches are possible in isolated cases.

#### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

In northern regions it will be partly sunny on both days, amidst showers during the afternoon. In southern regions, showers are still to be expected on Saturday in particular; on Sunday it will be quite sunny. The hazards of dry avalanches are expected to recede in the major areas of precipitation in particular. The danger of wet avalanches is somewhat subject to the 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)

##### 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: [lw@slf.ch](mailto:lw@slf.ch)






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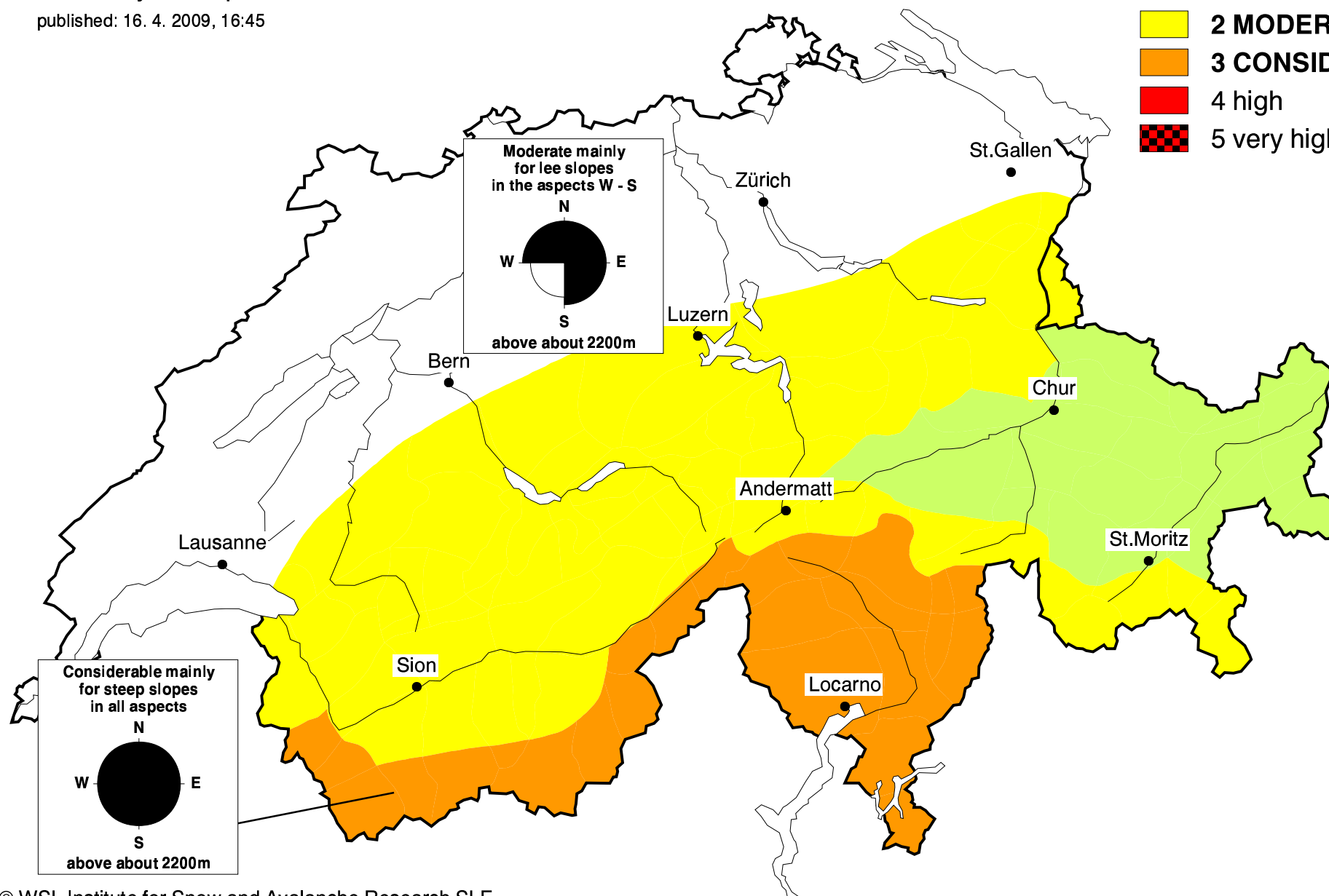
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 17. April 2009

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Danger level

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



# Avalanche danger forecast

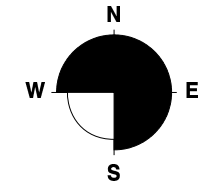
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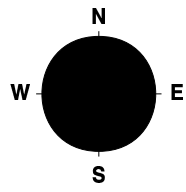
Danger level

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

Moderate mainly  
for lee slopes  
in the aspects W - S



Considerable mainly  
for steep slopes  
in all aspects



above about 2200m

