

National avalanche bulletin no. 40

for Wednesday, 23 December 2009

issue date 22.12.2009, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger persists with fresh snow in the west and south

Current conditions

On Monday night, 20 to 30 cm of snow fell in Lower Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps. 10 to 20 cm fell in the adjacent regions, but there was no fresh snow further to the east. During the day the skies were overcast, but no snow fell. Temperatures rose significantly, reaching plus 1 degree in the north and minus 6 degrees in the south at 2000 m at midday. The wind eased slightly, blowing mainly moderate from the southwest to south.

The strong to very strong winds during the night transported a lot of snow, especially the fresh snow. The snow drift accumulations are lying on loosely bonded, faceted old snow at intermediate and high altitudes in particular, and can be released easily.

Short-term development

On Tuesday night, a further 20 to 30 cm of snow will fall, in particular in Valais, on the main Alpine ridge and to the south, and in Engadine. In the other regions 5 to 20 cm of snow will fall. There will be very little precipitation during the day. The wind will be moderate from the southwest. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 3 degrees. The avalanche situation will remain treacherous. Especially in the regions where the snowfall is heavy, further natural avalanches are to be expected.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes. On the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland to Säntis, excluding the Gotthard region, they are to be found on east to south to west facing aspects above approximately 1600 m in particular. In the rest of the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, and in Lower Valais and Upper Valais, excluding the main Alpine ridge, the avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects above approximately 1600 m. On the main Alpine ridge from the Matterhorn to Lower Engadine and to the south, treacherous snow drift accumulations are to be found in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In northern and central Grisons and Engadine, in each case excluding the main Alpine ridge, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to south facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. Snow drift accumulations can still be released naturally and triggered easily, especially in the regions with fresh snow. The avalanche prone locations are widespread.

Avalanches, including medium-sized ones, are to be expected.

In all the forenamed regions, it is highly recommended that those engaging in off-piste activities have a lot of experience and a good knowledge of avalanches.

Below approximately 1500 m, especially in the regions exposed to the foehn, the entire snowpack can be released on road embankments and grassy slopes.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Wednesday night, a further 20 to 40 cm of snow are expected to fall on the main Alpine ridge and to the south. On Christmas day, some snow will fall in all regions. The southwesterly wind will be strong again on Thursday, but ease later. On Christmas day, snow is expected to fall even at low altitudes. The avalanche danger will decrease rather slowly in the north. In the south, the danger may increase to high (level 4) on Thursday.

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

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

Feedback information:

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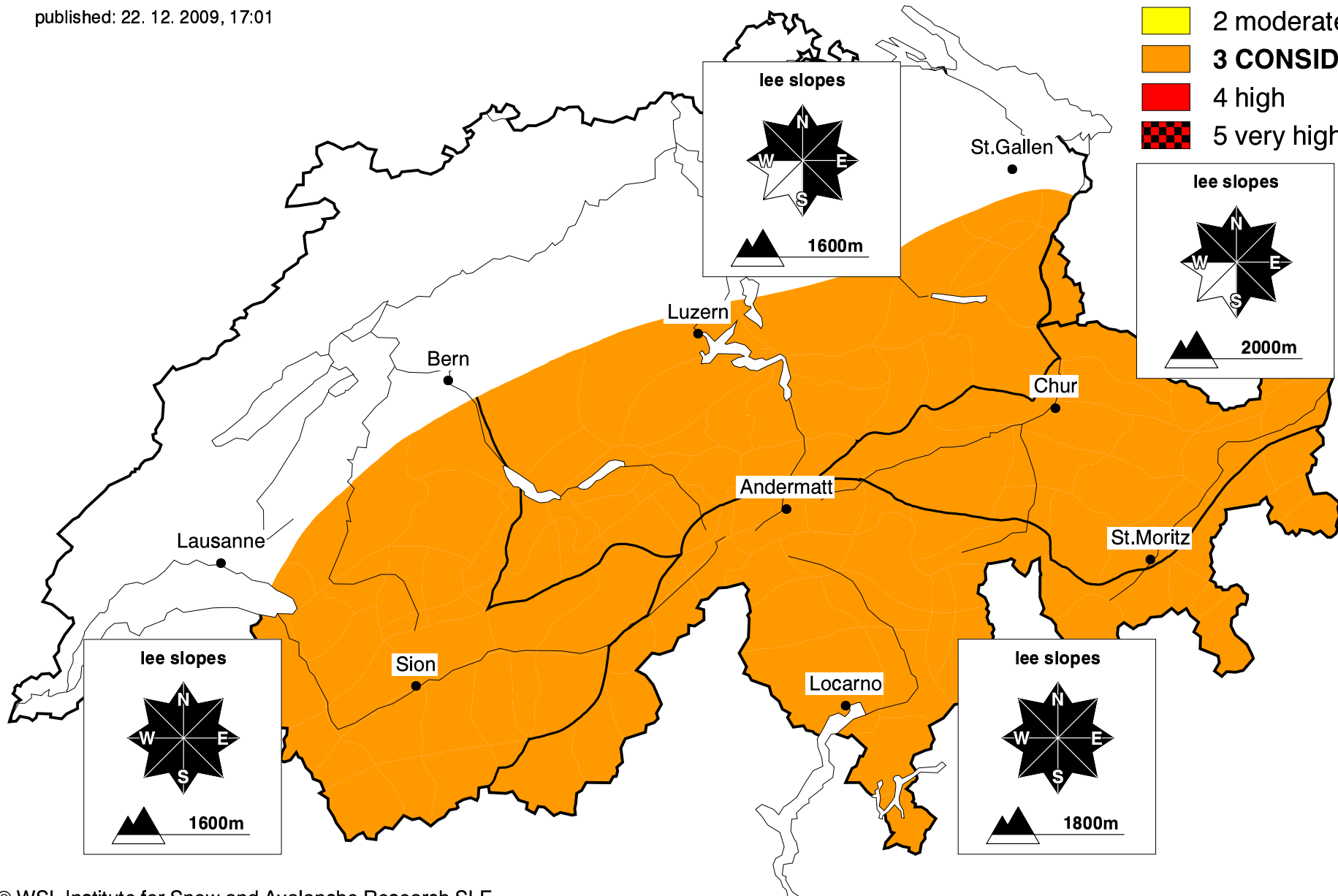
Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 23. December 2009

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Danger level

-  1 low
-  2 moderate
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  4 high
-  5 very high








Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 23. December 2009

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Danger level

-  1 low
-  2 moderate
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  4 high
-  5 very high

