

## National avalanche bulletin no. 42

for Friday, 25 December 2009

issue date 24.12.2009, 18:30 hours

### *Critical avalanche situation continues, amidst snowfall and ongoing winds*

#### Current conditions

On Wednesday night and during the day on Thursday in the central and eastern parts of the southern flank of the Alps, there was 15 to 25 cm of snowfall. The snowfall level ascended, in the Engadine as far up as 2000 m. In western and northern regions, foehn induced bright spells were evident. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between plus 4 degrees in northwestern regions and minus 1 degree in southeastern regions. Strong to stormy southerly winds were blowing at high altitudes and in the areas subject to foehn influence. The snowpack is being ongoingly and intensely impacted by the wind and has also been transformed by the higher temperatures. Older snowdrift accumulations are often hard and are becoming increasingly stable. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations remain delicate.

#### Short-term development

During the night of Christmas Eve, precipitation is anticipated in all regions of the Swiss Alps, most intensely in southeastern regions. The snowfall level will drop down to about 1600 m by Christmas morning, subsequently it will rapidly descend further, down to the low lying areas. During the day, the precipitation will gradually taper off from the west and bright spells will make themselves felt. By evening on Christmas Day above approximately 2000 m, 10 to 30 cm of snowfall is anticipated widespread, in far western and in southeastern regions as much as 40 cm. In the northern Prealps, there will be only 5 to 10 cm of snowfall. The wind will shift to westerly during the morning, in the afternoon to northwesterly and continue to blow at strong to storm velocity. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will drop to minus 6 degrees in northern regions and minus 3 degrees in southern regions. In all regions, additional snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Christmas Day

Northern and central Ticino; Zervreila; Rheinwald; Avers; Upper Engadine; southern valleys of Grisons:

##### *High avalanche danger (Level 4)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Avalanches can fracture in a dry snowpack and sweep the moist snow along with it, thereby advancing even as far as altitudes below 1800 m. Particularly during the night of Christmas Eve, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected. Exposed transportation routes are endangered. During the course of the day on Friday, the avalanche activity will slacken off. For backcountry skiers and freeriders in outlying terrain away from secured ski slopes, the situation remains highly critical.

Valais; western part of northern flank of the Alps; central part of northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; in addition, Linthal; Sernftal; St. Gallen Oberland; remaining Grisons; Sotto Ceneri:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are to be found in all expositions due to the strongly rotating winds, and are often quite difficult to recognize. They are currently the major hazard, for they can be released by a single backcountry skier or freerider. In outlying terrain away from secured ski slopes, extensive experience as well as detailed knowledge of reading and assessing avalanche dangers are imperative.

Central and eastern Prealps; Alpstein - Alvier; Liechtenstein:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1600 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider, although they tend to be rather small sized.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps below about 1800 m, particularly Thursday night, wet snowslides are possible.

#### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday it is expected to be predominantly sunny, on Sunday variably cloudy. Temperatures will remain low. The winds will slacken off. The avalanche danger will gradually recede.

##### 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

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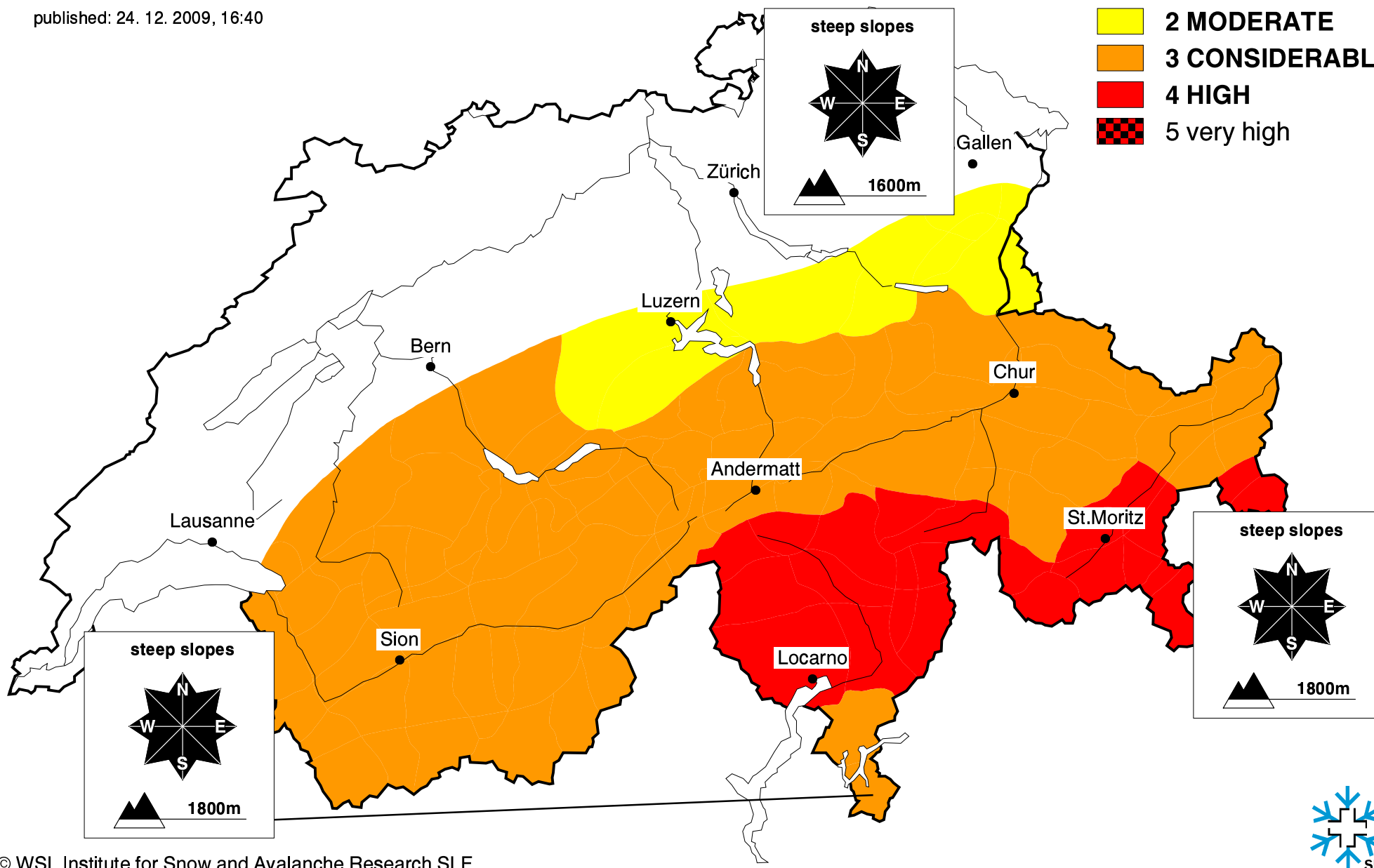
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 25. December 2009

published: 24. 12. 2009, 16:40

Danger level

-  1 low
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  **4 HIGH**
-  **5 very high**








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 25. December 2009

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Danger level

-  1 low
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  **4 HIGH**
-  **5 very high**

