

National avalanche bulletin no. 44

for Sunday, 27 December 2009

issue date 26.12.2009, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny during the morning hours, during the day it became overcast from the southwest. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 2 degrees in northwestern regions and minus 6 degrees in southeastern regions. The wind once again shifted to southwesterly. During the morning it was light to moderate, in the afternoon moderate to strong. Particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines, fresh snowdrift accumulations formed.

Freshly fallen snow lies atop the snowpack surface, which particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and at high altitudes has been heavily impacted by the winds. Beneath the new fallen snow, the snowpack is moist up to altitudes of approximately 2000 m, in some regions even higher. As temperatures fall, an increasingly stable crust is forming inside the snowpack, beneath the new fallen snow. The base of the snowpack is weak in some places, especially in wind protected inneralpine regions. The large sized snowdrift accumulations in southern regions are gradually becoming more stable. However, if they are triggered, they produce quite large avalanches.

Short-term development

On Sunday in the Valais and in Grisons, bright spells will be evident around midday, elsewhere it will be predominantly overcast. During the afternoon in western and northern regions, a few centimeters of snowfall is expected. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 6 degrees in northern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions. Light to moderate northwesterly winds will prevail and increase in velocity over the course of the day. Especially in areas adjacent or ridge lines, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Swiss Alps not including northern Prealps:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier. Particularly in the Valais, in the Engadine and in central Grisons, such avalanches can attain medium size. In these regions, great restraint is called for.

On the northern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are less widespread. Particularly in inneralpine regions, fractures in the old snowpack can occur. Whumpfung sounds are distinct indications of this peril.

In all regions of this danger level, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which are usually small sized are evident. They should be assessed with great caution.

Northern Prealps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Through large additional loading, even older snowdrift accumulations can be released as avalanches in some places. In addition, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are evident, which are generally small sized, however.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday morning, it will still be sunny. In the course of the day, it will rapidly become overcast. On Tuesday, temperatures will rise and a small amount of precipitation is anticipated. 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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

Feedback information:

Email: lw@slf.ch






Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

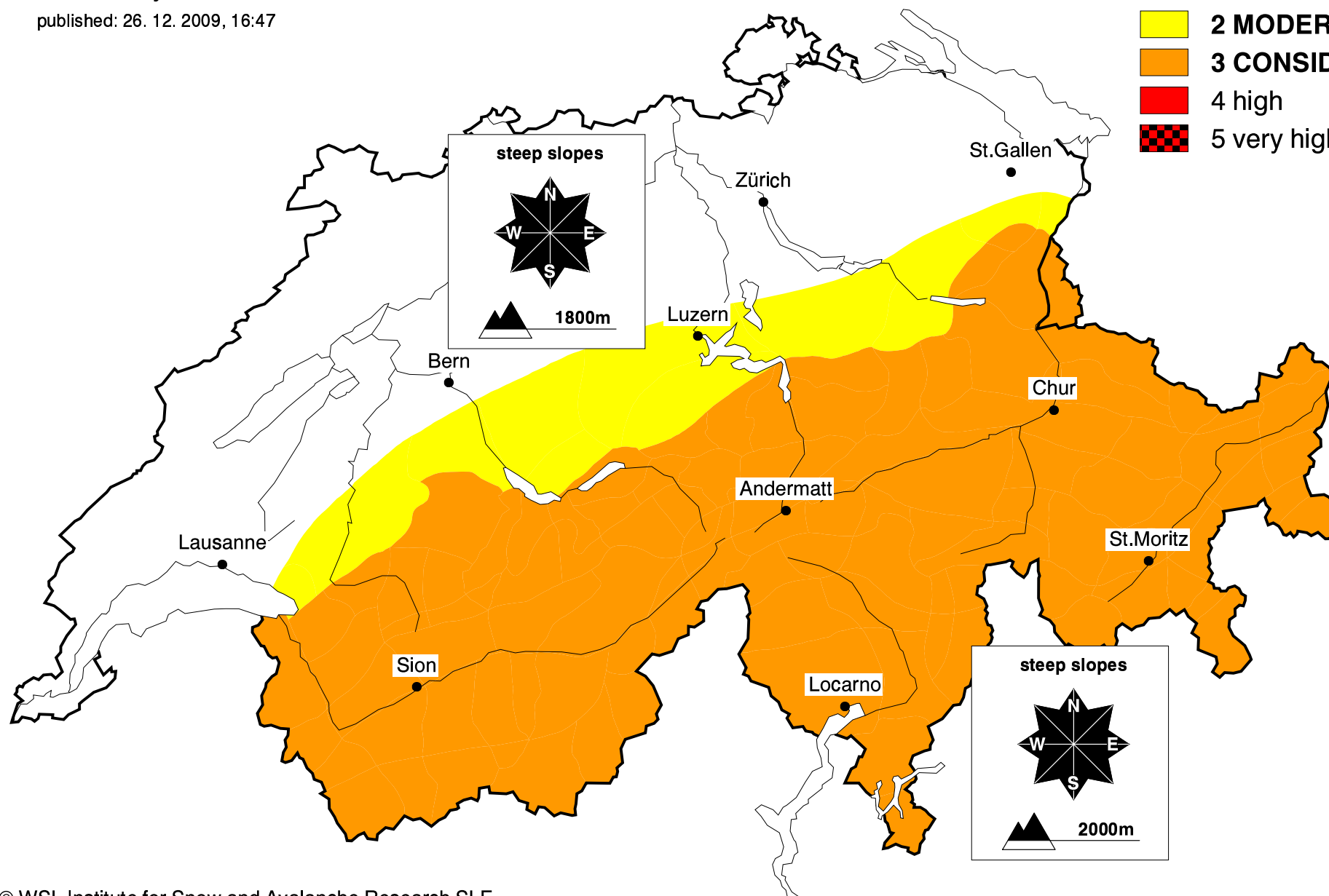
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 27. December 2009

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 27. December 2009

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Danger level

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

