

National avalanche bulletin no. 46

for Tuesday, 29 December 2009

issue date 28.12.2009, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger increasing in some regions with stormy weather and new snow

Current conditions

Monday morning was sunny in the east, but very cloudy elsewhere. In the afternoon, snow began to fall in the west. As much as 10 cm of snow fell in Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps. The westerly wind was moderate. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 4 degrees.

Fresh and even older snow drift accumulations are to be found in particular adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. In the high Alpine regions, they are more widespread. At high altitudes, the base of the snowpack is weak in some cases, in particular in places that are protected from the wind in the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons.

Short-term development

Tuesday will be mostly very cloudy. 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais, and up to 30 cm will fall in the extreme west. Only a little snow will fall in Grisons and Ticino. The snowfall level will rise to 2000 m on the northern flank of the Alps, and to 1000 m in Valais. The westerly wind will blow strong, and even very strong during the day in the west and on the northern flank of the Alps.

Further snow drift accumulations will form, especially in the west and north.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Western part of the northern flank of the Alps; Valais; main Alpine ridge; Engadine; Puschlav; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In Valais, including Chablais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The size of the treacherous snow drift accumulations is increasing. Especially at transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack, moreover, avalanches can be released in older layers of the snowpack. Whumpfung sounds are a clear indicator of this danger.

In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps excluding Chablais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The snow drift accumulations will increase in size during the day.

In the regions of the Urn Alps, Ticino and Grisons that are subject to this danger level, avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. The snow drift accumulations are to be found chiefly adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls.

In all the areas subject to this danger level, the fresh snow drift accumulations can be released even by a single winter sport participant. Experience and caution are important.

Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps excluding Urseren; also northern Grisons; central Grisons excluding the regions on the main Alpine ridge; regions south of the central part of the main Alpine ridge:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to south facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m. Many snow drift accumulations are rather small, but they can be released easily in some places. They will increase in size during the day, especially on the northern flank of the Alps. In the high Alpine regions, they cover larger areas. In addition, isolated avalanches can be released in older layers of the snowpack by large additional loads in particular, especially in the inneralpine regions of Grisons. Careful route selection is important.

On the northern flank of the Alps and in western Valais, rain is likely to give rise to wet snow slides below approximately 2000 m, but they will generally be only surface slides.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Wednesday will be mostly very cloudy with some precipitation in the north in particular. The weather will remain mild and very windy. On Thursday, it will be cloudy with bright intervals in the north and very cloudy in the south. The avalanche danger will increase on Wednesday in the north, but will not change significantly 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)

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(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>

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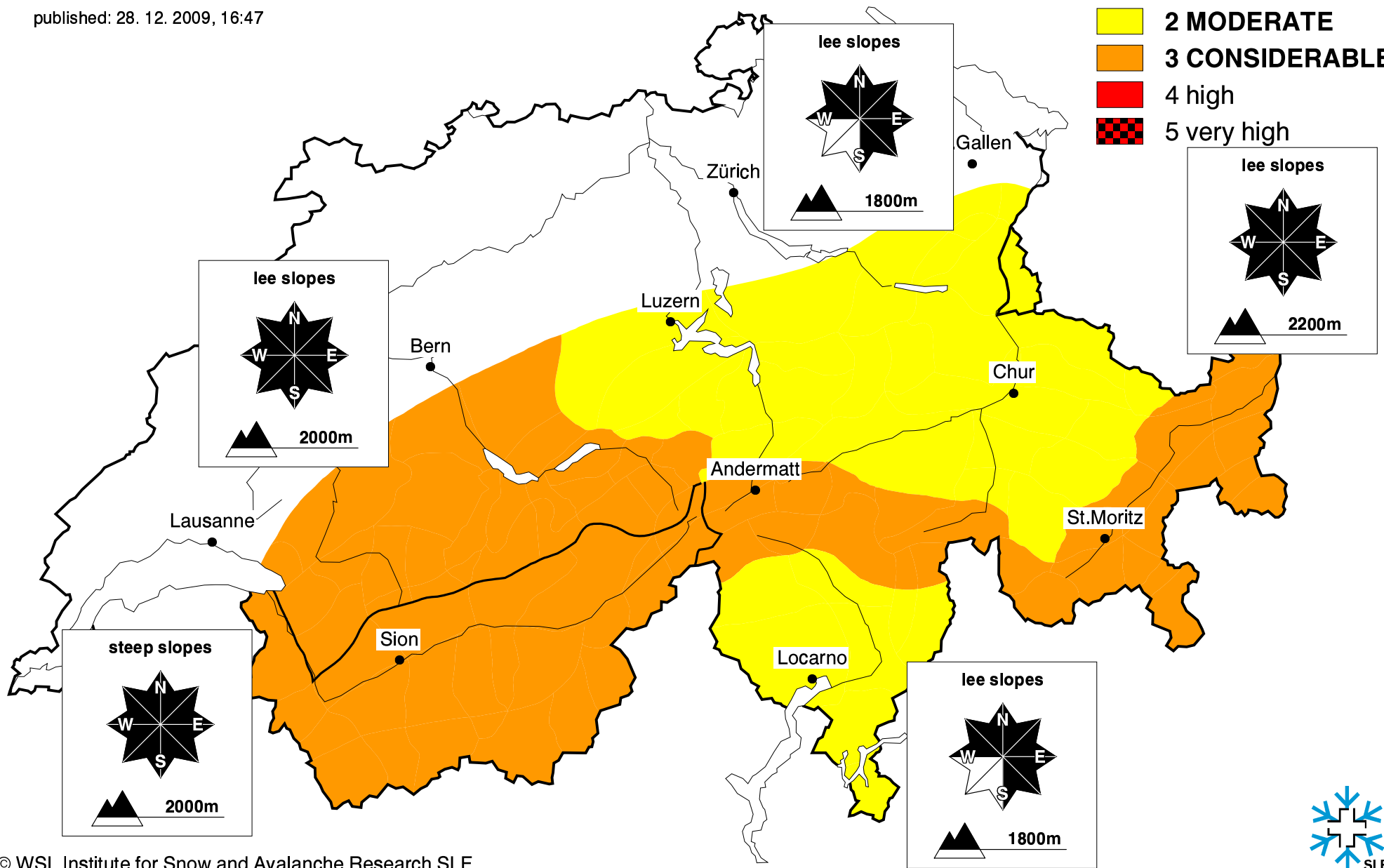
Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 29. December 2009

published: 28. 12. 2009, 16:47

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 29. December 2009

published: 29. 12. 2009, 07:41

Danger level

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

