

## National avalanche bulletin no. 60

for Tuesday, 12 January 2010

issue date 11.1.2010, 18:30 hours

### *Avalanche danger decreasing slowly*

#### Current conditions

On Monday, low stratus cloud cover at approximately 1600 m prevailed on the northern flank of the Alps. Above the cloud it was mostly sunny, except in the east. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 6 degrees. The westerly wind was mainly light, but moderate at times in the Säntis region. The snow that had fallen by Sunday on the main Alpine ridge and to the south has bonded, but only weakly. In the northern regions, including the remaining regions of Valais, the quality of the snowpack layers varies greatly as a general rule. In many cases, the near-surface layers are loosely bonded, or have been compacted by the wind. Up to altitudes of approximately 2400 m, these are interspersed with rain crusts and with loosely bonded, and in some cases thin, buried layers of surface hoar. The low temperatures have given rise to further faceting and a loosely bonded snowpack containing large grains in the deeper layers, especially in the regions without fresh snow.

#### Short-term development

On Monday night, a few centimetres of snow will fall in the east. During the day, it will be generally sunny in all regions. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 4 degrees in the west, and minus 8 degrees in the east and south. The wind will be light to moderate, from a generally westerly direction.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Chablais; Champex; southern Valais; main Alpine ridge; northern Ticino; Grisons southern valleys:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes, in particular on southwest to north to southeast facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. The main danger is posed by the weakly bonded fresh snow and the various layers, some of which are relatively old, of the snow drift accumulations. These are lying on a weakly bonded surface or on a crust. Avalanches can be triggered by a single person. Outside marked and open pistes, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Northern flank of the Alps excluding Chablais and the Gotthard region; also the remaining regions of northern Valais; central Grisons excluding the regions on the main Alpine ridge; northern Grisons; regions north of the Inn; central and southern Ticino:

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

The avalanche prone locations are steep slopes of all aspects. The locations that are to be evaluated with particular care and prudence are situated above approximately 1800 m in the prealps and in southern and central Ticino, and above approximately 2000 m in the other regions subject to this danger level. The rather small, older snow drift accumulations, which are covered by fresh snow in many cases, and the weekend's snow that is lying in Ticino, are prone to triggering, predominantly by large additional loads. Transitions from a shallow to a deep snowpack are to be assessed critically as well. Careful route selection is recommended.

In northern Valais in particular, the number of glide cracks in the snowpack is increasing on sun exposed slopes. It is recommended to avoid dwelling unnecessarily in areas below such cracks.

#### Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On Wednesday, a little snow will fall in all regions, even at low altitudes. On Thursday, the weather will clear in the mountains and become sunny. Temperatures will rise slightly. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.

##### 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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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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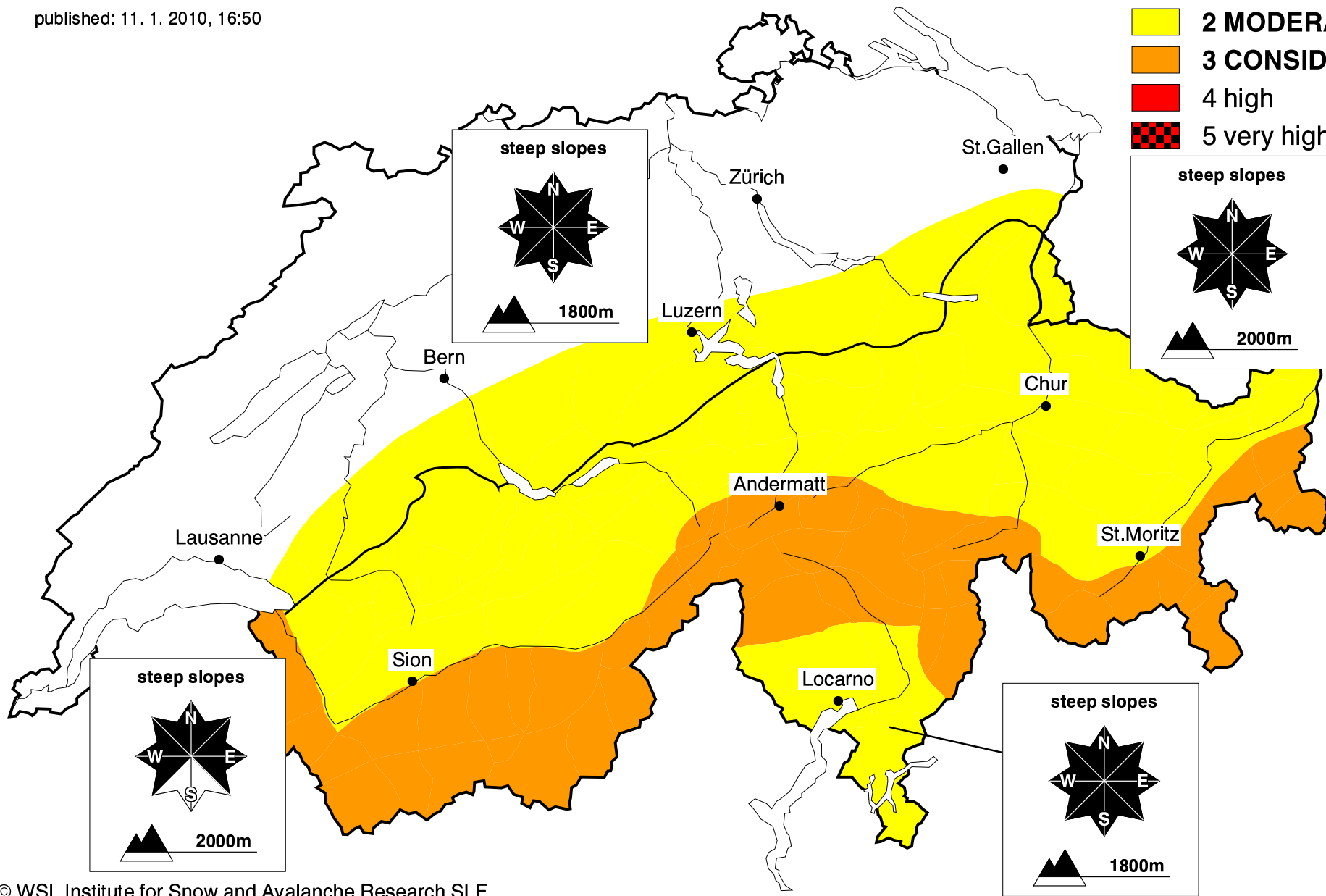
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 12. January 2010

published: 11. 1. 2010, 16:50

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 12. January 2010

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Danger level

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

