

National avalanche bulletin no. 69

for Thursday, 21 January 2010

issue date 20.1.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche situation is favourable by and large

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was predominantly sunny in the Swiss Alps. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 2 degrees in the furthestmost western regions and minus 6 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps. A light to moderate velocity westerly wind was blowing.

The older snowdrift accumulations are bonding only gradually with the old snowpack, which itself is weak in many places.

Short-term development

On Wednesday evening, clouds will move in from the west. Later on during the night as much as 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated in western and northern regions in particular. During the day on Thursday it will still be overcast in eastern regions, accompanied by a few final snowflakes. In western regions the sunshine will encroach only hesitantly, whereas in the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps it will rapidly become quite sunny. 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. The new fallen snow has blanketed older snowpack accumulations in some areas, making it far more difficult to recognize the avalanche prone locations.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; southern flank of the Alps not including Sotto Ceneri; regions north of the Vorderrhein;

Main Alpine Ridge; Engadine:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the southern Simplon region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Older, often hardened snowdrift accumulations have been deposited on top of weak old snow. The snowdrift accumulations can be most easily triggered on the edges of these deposit zones. A cautious route selection is essential. Transition areas from shallow to deep snow, such as the entry points of gullies and bowls, should be evaluated very critically.

In all the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in western to northern to southern exposition, on the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1800 m, elsewhere above approximately 2200 m. Older snowdrift accumulations are still prone to triggering in some places and must be evaluated with great caution. They are often found in gullies and bowls. With increasing altitude, they are more widely distributed, thus making the avalanche prone locations far more frequent. Especially in the Valais and in Grisons, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack in isolated cases. A high degree of caution is urged in transition zones from shallow to deep snow.

Freshly formed, usually small sized snowdrift accumulations must be assessed with great care.

Prättigau; inneralpine regions of Grisons not including Engadine; Sotto Ceneri:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Scattered avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in gullies, bowls and areas adjacent to ridge lines. Most likely to fracture are older layers of snow near the upper surface and small sized, freshly formed pockets of snowdrift.

Apart from the peril of being buried in snow, caution must also be exercised towards the hazards of falling.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On both days it is expected to be generally sunny. Temperatures will rise somewhat. The avalanche danger will recede incrementally.

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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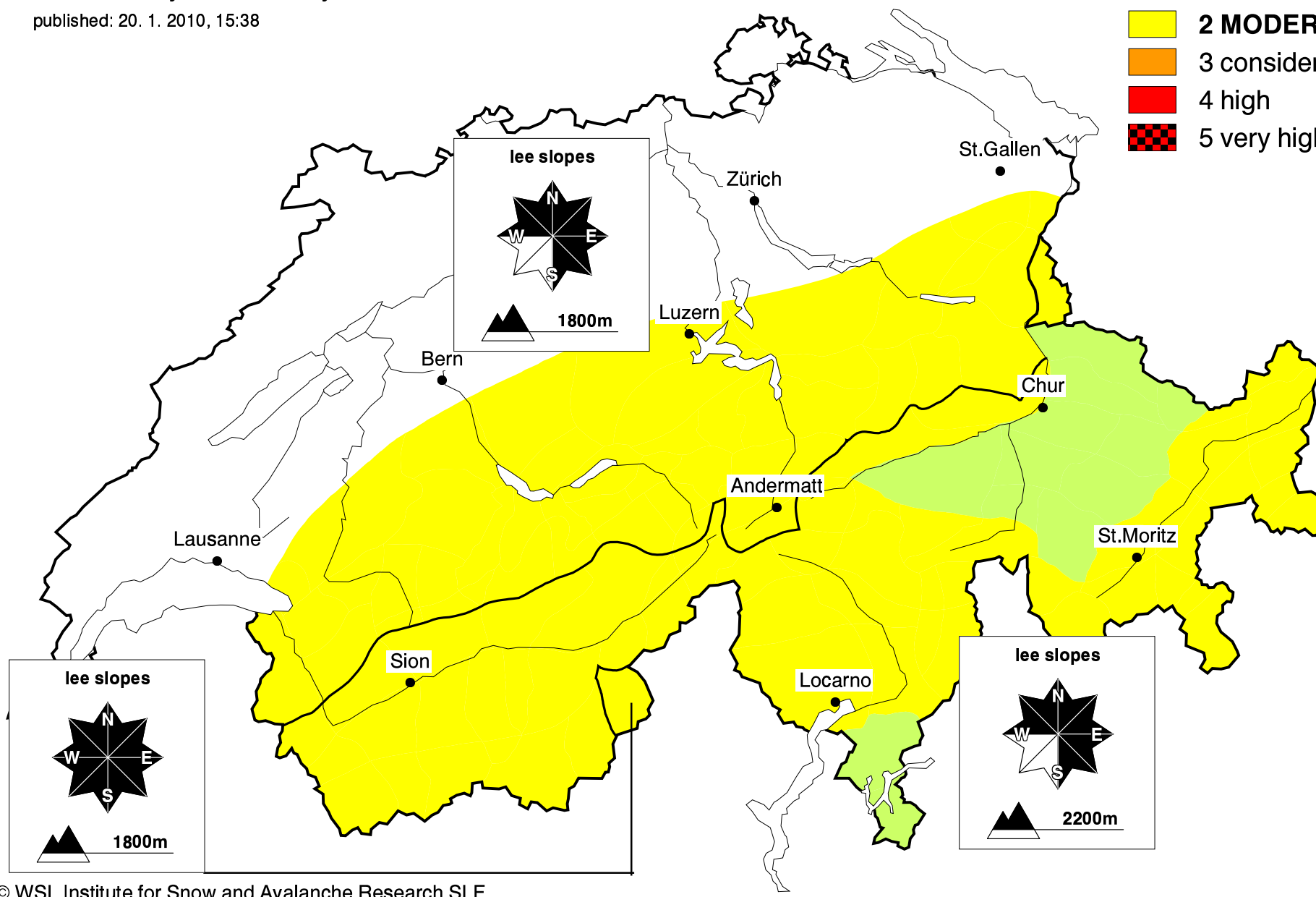
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for Thursday, 21. January 2010

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Danger level

-  **1 LOW**
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 considerable**
-  **4 high**
-  **5 very high**








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Danger level

-  **1 LOW**
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 considerable**
-  **4 high**
-  **5 very high**

