

National avalanche bulletin no. 71

for Saturday, 23 January 2010

issue date 22.1.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche situation is predominantly favourable

Current conditions

On Friday it was sunny in the Swiss Alps, with good visibility. Temperatures at midday at 2000 m were between minus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 5 degrees in southern regions. A light northeasterly wind was blowing, in some regions it attained moderate velocity.

The snowpack widespread is layered in greatly varied fashion, even within contained surface areas. It generally consists of layers of highly diverging degrees of hardness. Many soft, faceted layers are also embedded within it. The snowpack shows no current tendency to fracture at great breadth. Particularly in the layers nearest to the surface, avalanches can be released by backcountry skiers or freeriders. On the southern flank of the Alps, the snow layering is more favourable than in the remaining regions.

Short-term development

On Saturday it is expected to be sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 1 degree. Light northerly winds will prevail.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; southern flank of the Alps excluding central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri; regions north of the Vorderrhein; Main Alpine Ridge; Engadine:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes. On the northern flank of the Alps they are found in particular in western to northern to southern exposition above approximately 1800 m. In the southern Simplon region they are found in all expositions above approximately 2200 m, in the remaining regions primarily in western to northern to southeastern exposition above approximately 2200 m. In some places trigger-sensitive hardened snowdrift lies inside the snowpack. Especially in areas with a thin snowpack, such as in transition areas into gullies and bowls, it is easiest to trigger avalanches through the weight of a person. A prudent route selection is essential. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places, but usually remain small sized. In extremely steep terrain in particular, they should be avoided.

Prättigau; inneralpine regions of Grisons not including Engadine; central Ticino; 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. Such locations are more frequently found in high alpine regions. The hazards of falling are a greater peril than those of being buried in snow.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will still be sunny to begin with. During the afternoon, clouds will move in from the west. The wind will shift to southwesterly and increase in velocity. On Monday it will be heavily overcast and some snowfall is anticipated in northern regions. Due to the increasing wind velocity, the avalanche danger may well escalate somewhat in certain regions.

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: lwp@slf.ch






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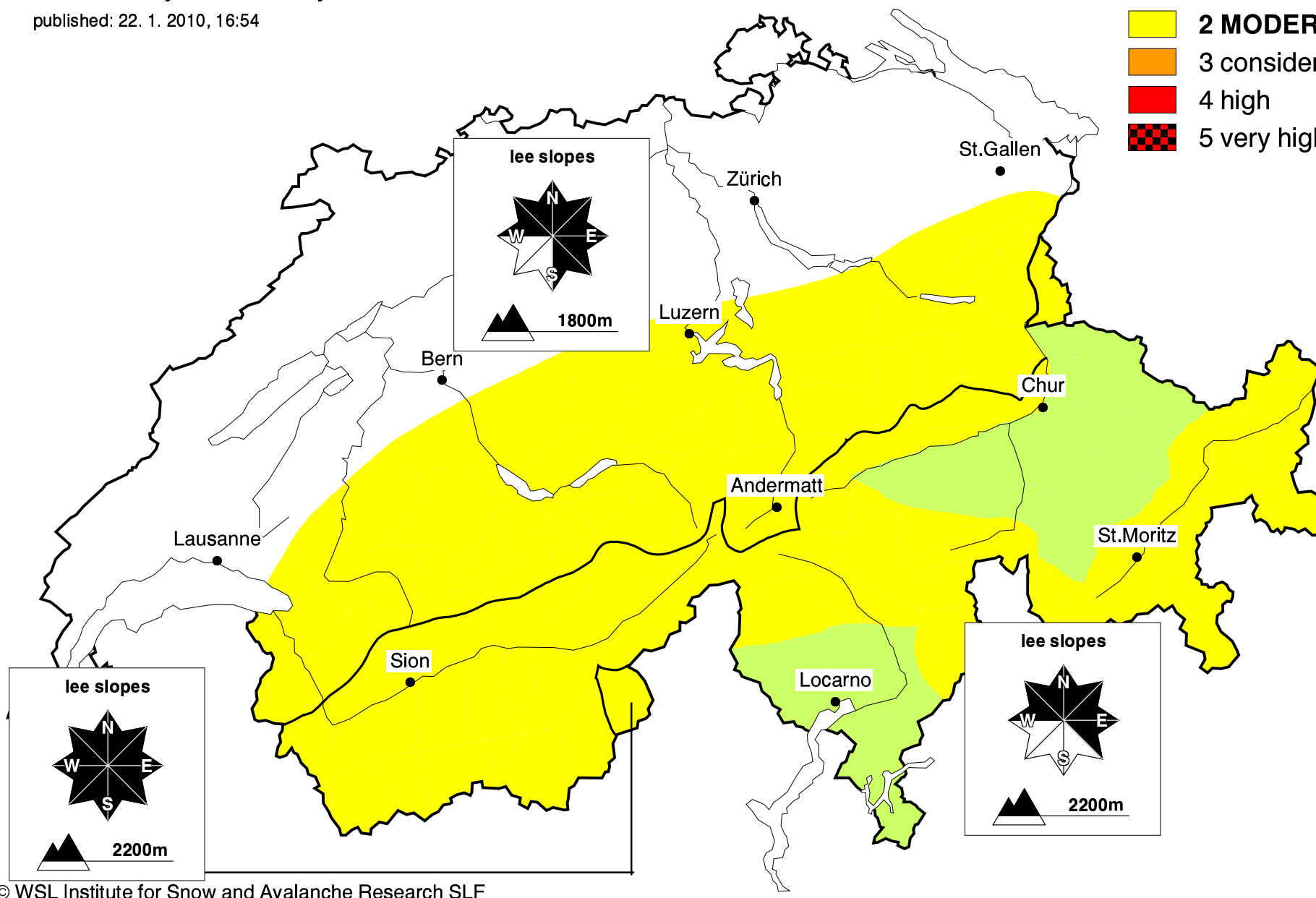
Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 23. January 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 23. January 2010

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Danger level

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

