

National avalanche bulletin no. 72

for Sunday, 24 January 2010

issue date 23.1.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche situation is predominantly favourable

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny in the Swiss Alps, with good visibility. The temperatures at midday at 2000 m ranged between a mild plus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 1 degree in southern regions. Only light winds prevailed.

The snowpack widespread is layered in highly varied fashion. It generally consists of layers in diverging degrees of hardness. Many soft, faceted layers are also embedded within it. In some places, skiers break through the snowpack all the way down to the ground, especially in spots with little or shallow snow. Particularly in the layers nearest to the surface, avalanches can be released by backcountry skiers or freeriders. However, there is little probability that the snowpack will fracture in great breadth. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the snow layering is more favourable than in the remaining regions.

Short-term development

On Sunday high altitude clouds will gradually move in from the west. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. Light westerly winds will be blowing.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

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 on steep slopes. In the southern Simplon region they are found in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. On the northern flank of the Alps they are found primarily in western to northern to southeastern exposition above approximately 2000 m, in the remaining regions in the same expositions above approximately 2200 m.

In certain areas, hard layers which are prone to triggering are deeply embedded in the snowpack. Particularly in places with little or shallow snow, such as in transitions into gullies and bowls, triggering avalanches by persons is most highly probable.

In some places, it is possible to trigger avalanches in snow layers near the surface, although in such cases the released snow masses will remain small, as a rule. A cautious route selection is of great importance.

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 extremely steep gullies, bowls and areas adjacent to ridge lines. Most likely to fracture are older layers of snow near the uppermost 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 Monday and Tuesday

Light, intermittent snowfall is anticipated on Monday in northern regions. In southern regions it will be overcast. On Tuesday, bright interims will make an appearance, particularly in the mountains. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

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

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

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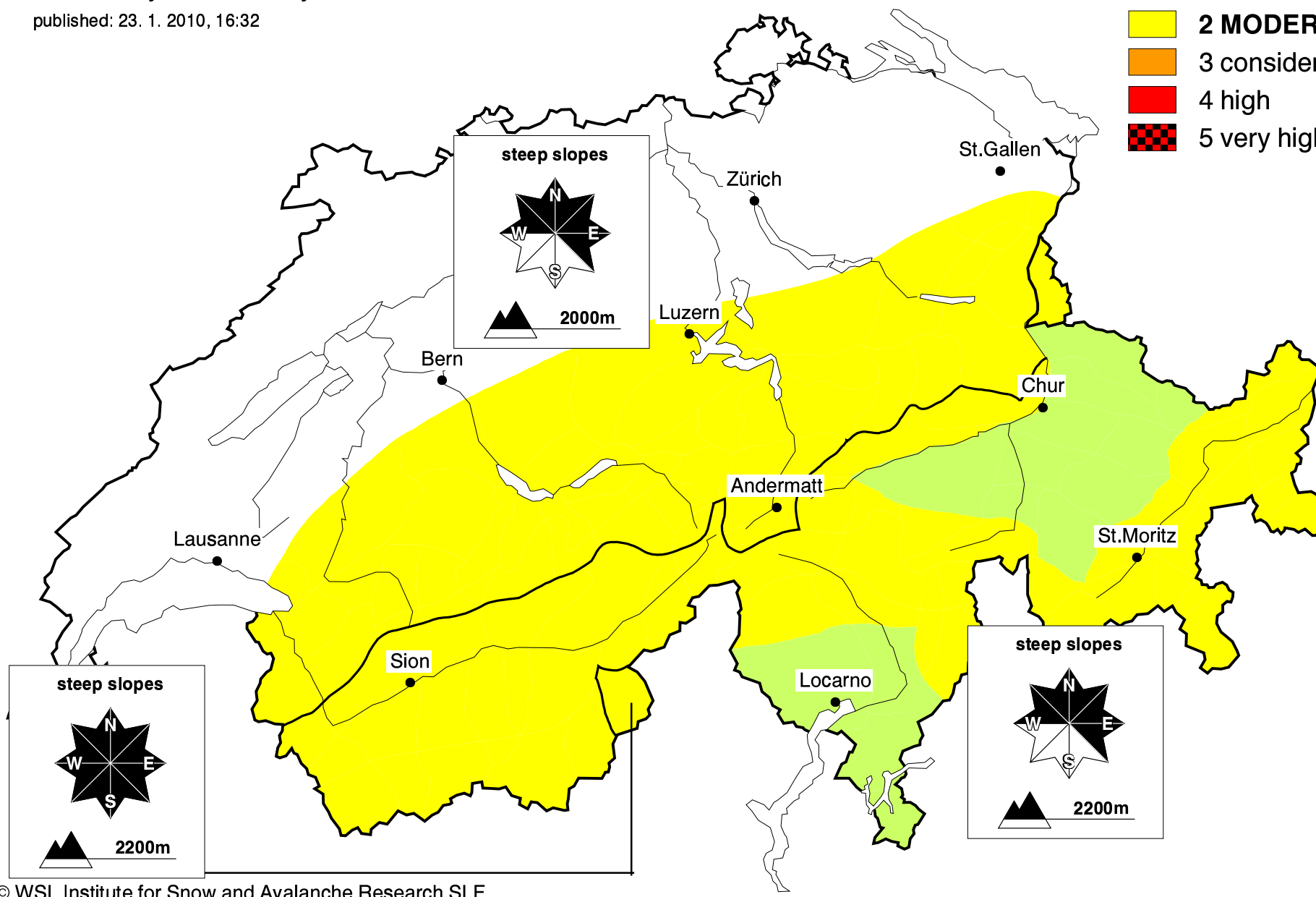
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 24. January 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 24. January 2010

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Danger level

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

