

National avalanche bulletin no. 78

for Saturday, 30 January 2010

issue date 29.1.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is considerable widespread

Current conditions

On Friday in the northern and western regions it was heavily overcast and a few centimeters of snow fell in flurries. In Ticino and in Grisons there were some intermittent bright spells. Since Thursday on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Alps into Liechtenstein as well as in the regions of Grisons north of the Vorderrhein and in the Prättigau, there has been 20 to 40 cm of snowfall, in the Glarner Alps as much as 50 cm locally. On the remaining northern flank of the Alps, in the Upper Valais and in remaining Grisons there has been 10 to 20 cm of snowfall, elsewhere less. In the furthestmost southern regions it remained dry. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 8 degrees. A moderate to strong westerly wind was blowing in northern and western regions, in southern regions the winds were light to moderate in strength.

The layers of both new fallen snow and snowdrift of recent days are prone to triggering. In addition, the old snowpack is poorly consolidated in most regions. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the snow layering is more favourable.

Short-term development

On Friday night the snowfall will become more intense in northern and western regions. On Saturday a bit of further snowfall is anticipated in northern regions, whereas in southern regions it will be variably cloudy. Between Friday evening and Saturday afternoon on the northern flank of the Alps, in western Lower Valais and in the Jura, 20 to 30 cm of snowfall is expected, locally as much as 40 cm. In the remaining Valais, in the Gotthard region, in the regions of Grisons north of the Vorderrhein and in the Prättigau, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is anticipated, elsewhere just a few centimeters. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 13 degrees. A moderate to strong westerly to northerly wind will be blowing.

In the areas of precipitation more than anywhere else, the snowdrift accumulations are expected to increase in size and in frequency.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern flank of the Alps; Jura; Valais; Gotthard region not including northern Ticino; regions of Grisons north of the Vorderrhein; northern Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1600 m. Naturally triggered, predominantly medium sized avalanches can be expected on the northern flank of the Alps east of the Haslital in particular. In isolated cases, exposed sections of transportation routes can be placed at risk. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions. In the Jura they are found above approximately 1400 m, elsewhere above approximately 2000 m.

In all regions, even a single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger avalanches which might also fracture and sweep along more deeply embedded layers within the snowpack. Backcountry skiers and freeriders are urged to exercise great restraint; extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative.

Ticino; central Grisons not including Tavetsch and not including northern Surselva; Engadine; southern valleys of Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In northern Ticino, in the indicated regions of central Grisons, in the Engadine as well as in Bergell, Puschlav and Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, as well as in Val Calanca and Val Moesa, the danger zones are found primarily in areas adjacent to ridge lines and in pass areas in all expositions above approximately 2000 m.

The snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering. Snow masses which are released are generally small in size. A cautious route selection should be exercised and the freshly formed snowdrift avoided whenever possible.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Saturday night in northern regions, a bit of additional snowfall is anticipated. On Sunday it will be partly sunny in northern regions, predominantly so in southern regions. On Monday in northern regions, clouds are expected to move in throughout the course of the day. Temperatures will remain low. The avalanche danger will recede only very gradually.

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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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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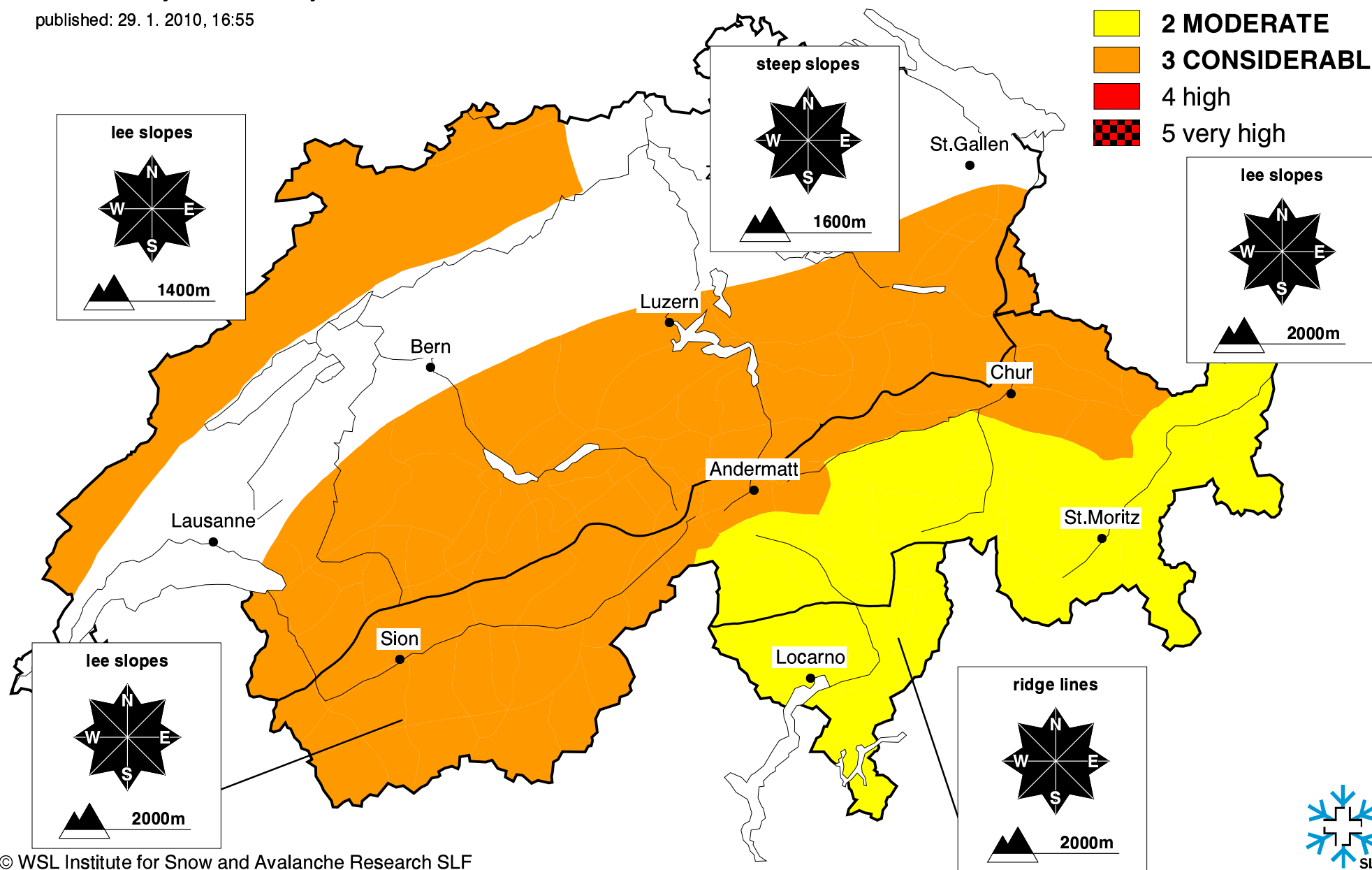
Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 30. January 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 30. January 2010

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Danger level

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

