

## National avalanche bulletin no. 79

for Sunday, 31 January 2010

issue date 30.1.2010, 18:30 hours

### *Delicate avalanche situation continues in northern and western regions*

#### Current conditions

On Saturday it was heavily overcast in most of the Swiss Alps, accompanied by snow flurries in northern regions. In northwestern and southern regions it was variably cloudy. Between Friday and Saturday afternoon in the Jura, on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais, there was 15 to 30 cm of snowfall, locally even more. Since Thursday in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, there has been 50 to 70 cm of snowfall. In the Jura, in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais, in the Gotthard region and in northern Grisons, there has been 20 to 50 cm of snowfall, in the remaining regions of northern Ticino and central Grisons as well as in the Engadine, 5 to 20 cm. The midday temperatures at 2000 m ranged between minus 13 degrees in northern regions and minus 9 degrees in southern regions. A gusty, moderate strength westerly to northwesterly wind was blowing.

The latest layer of new fallen snow is very loosely packed far and wide. It covers over the snowdrift layers of recent days. In addition, the old snowpack is widespread very poorly consolidated. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the snow layering is more favourable.

#### Short-term development

On Sunday it will be heavily overcast in northern regions and 5 to 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated. In the inneralpine regions it will be variably cloudy. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be predominantly sunny, in the Engadine increasingly so. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 14 degrees. A moderate, intermittently strong northerly wind will be blowing. The new fallen snow and the loosely packed snow nearest the uppermost surface will be transported, which will lead to further snowdrift accumulations forming.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alp; Jura; Valais; northern Ticino; northern and central Grisons; Lower Engadine north of the Inn River:

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

On the northern flank of the Alps the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1600 m. Naturally triggered, predominantly medium sized avalanches are possible.

In the Jura, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1400 m. In western Lower Valais, in northern Valais, in Goms, in the remaining Gotthard region, in northern Surselva as well as in northern Grisons, the danger zones are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. In the remaining southern Valais and in remaining northern Ticino, as well as in remaining central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine north of the Inn River, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in northern to southern to western exposition above approximately 2200 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 need to have extensive experience in evaluating avalanche hazards.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri; Upper Engadine; Lower Engadine south of the Inn River; southern valleys of Grisons:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. The freshly formed and somewhat older snowdrift accumulations are trigger sensitive. The snow masses which are released are generally of small size. A cautious route selection should be exercised and the snowdrift avoided whenever possible.

#### Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday in northern regions it will be partly sunny, in southern regions predominantly so. Towards evening in northern and western regions, a bit of snowfall is expected. On Tuesday it will be generally sunny, in the afternoon clouds will move over northern regions. The avalanche danger will gradually recede.

##### 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](http://wap.slf.ch)

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

##### Feedback information:

Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)






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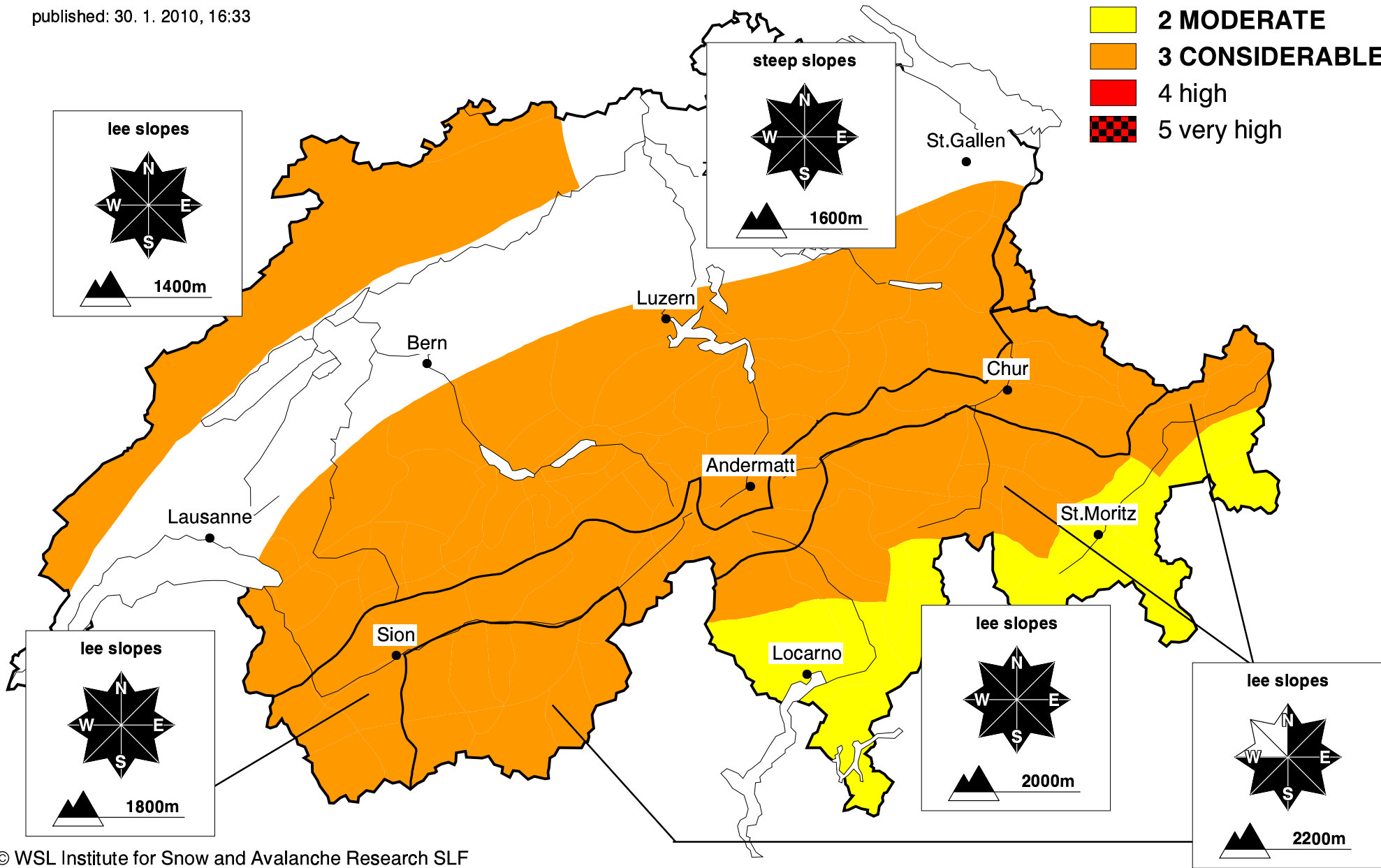
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 31. January 2010

published: 30. 1. 2010, 16:33

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 31. January 2010

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Danger level

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

