

National avalanche bulletin no. 84

for Friday, 5 February 2010

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Snowfall in southern and western regions in particular, considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Thursday it was quite sunny and mild in the northern regions in particular. In southern regions the skies were predominantly overcast and it was cooler. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 3 degrees in northern regions and minus 5 degrees in southern regions. The southwesterly wind blew at moderate strength on the northern Alpine Ridge, in the remaining regions the wind was light.

The mild temperatures north of the Main Alpine Ridge caused the snowpack to settle intensely, and towards evening it gradually began to consolidate as well, particularly in those regions with large amounts of new fallen snow.

Short-term development

On Friday the skies will be overcast in western and southern regions in particular and snowfall is anticipated. In eastern regions, snowfall is expected to set in only as of the afternoon hours. By evening in the furthestmost western regions, on the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, 20 to 40 cm of snowfall is expected. In the remaining western regions, about 20 cm is anticipated, further to the east there will be 5 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow. In northern regions, temperatures will drop again. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 4 degrees. The southerly wind will shift in the course of the day to northwesterly and blow at predominantly light velocity.

The lower temperatures are gradually having a beneficial effect on the existing snowpack. However, the new fallen snow in northern regions will probably be deposited atop a surface layer which has frozen again in some places. For that reason, the fresh fallen snow will be bonded inadequately with the old snowpack to begin with.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Main Alpine Ridge from Valais into the Bernina region; Ticino; northern Surselva; northern Grisons; southern valleys of Grisons not including Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations in all regions are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the regions north of the Anterior Rhine as well as in northern Grisons, the danger zones are to be found primarily in western to northern to southeastern exposition. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are found in all expositions. In the southeastern regions of this danger level, the avalanche danger will increase to the level "considerable" only over the course of the day.

When visibility is relatively poor in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, extensive knowledge of the local terrain is imperative for backcountry skiers and freeriders, as well as extensive experience in spotting and assessing the avalanche hazards.

Remaining parts of central Grisons; remaining regions in the Engadine; Münstertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. The freshly formed and the somewhat older snowdrift accumulations are being covered over by snowfall, but can be easily triggered in some places. The released snow masses tend to be rather small in size. A cautious route selection should be exercised in order to avoid whenever possible those places where snowdrift accumulations can be presumed.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday, weather conditions in northern regions will be variable and unstable, accompanied by snow flurries. In southern regions it will turn increasingly sunny over the course of the day. On Sunday, sunshine is expected in all regions of the Swiss Alps. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly on Saturday and will gradually decrease on Sunday.

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
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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

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

WAP: <wap.slf.ch>

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

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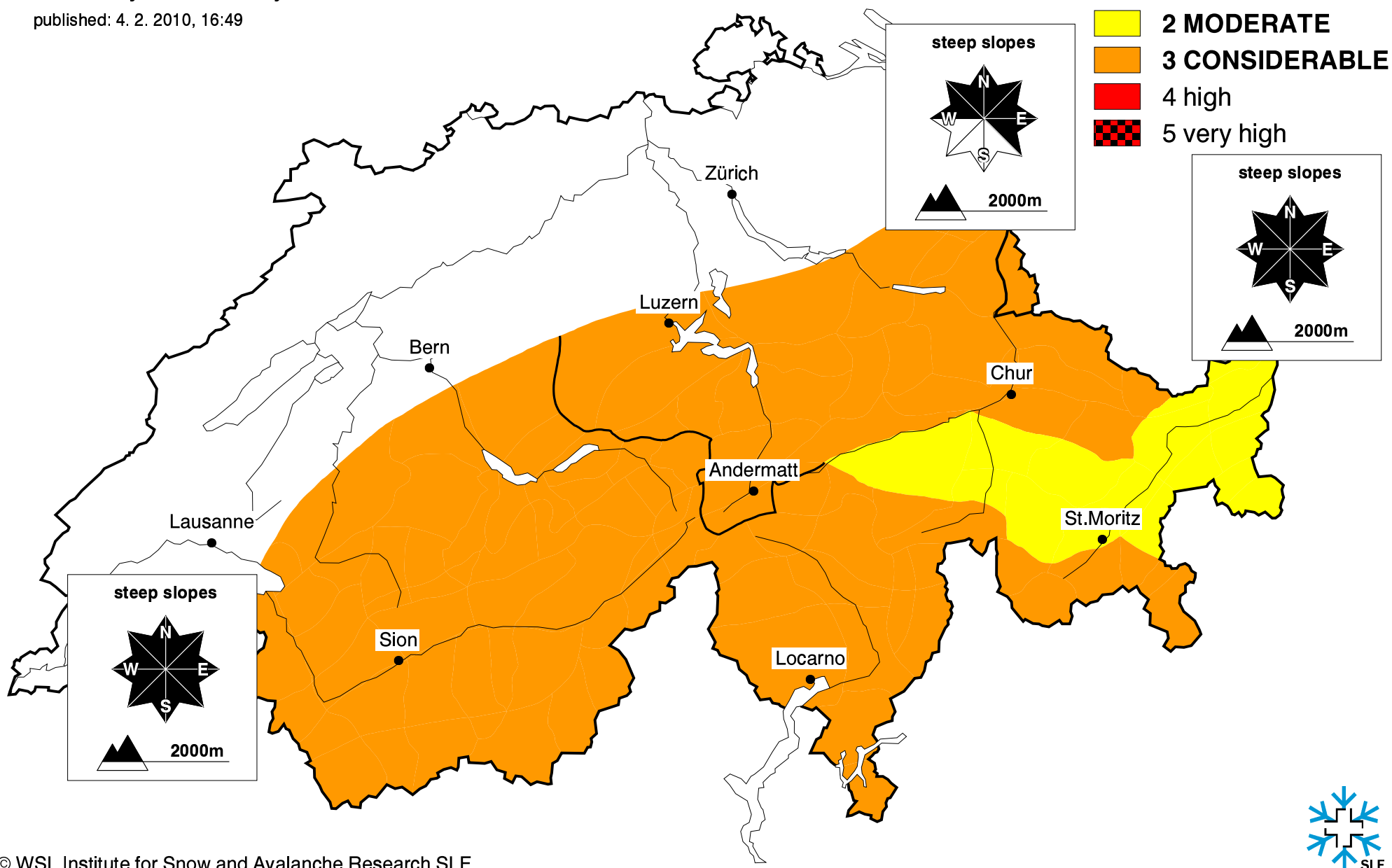
Email: lwp@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

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