

National avalanche bulletin no. 85

for Saturday, 6 February 2010

issue date 5.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Amidst new fallen snow and shifting winds, avalanche danger is considerable

Current conditions

On Friday in the furthestmost northeastern regions there were bright intervals, elsewhere it was overcast. In western and southern regions there was snowfall. The snowfall level in western regions was 800 to 1200 m, in southern regions it was 200 to 600 m. By Friday evening in the Jura, in the furthestmost western regions and in Ticino, 15 to 30 cm of snow had fallen, elsewhere 5 to 15 cm. In the furthestmost eastern regions it remained dry. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 4 degrees. The southerly wind was strong in the foehn exposed regions of the northern Alpine Ridge, elsewhere the wind was light to moderate.

Through the foehn winds, snowdrift accumulations have formed which are prone to triggering. In general, the snow layering is unfavourable. Avalanches can be triggered in the freshly formed snowdrift and even cause fractures in the coarse grained old snow. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, the snow layering is more favourable.

Short-term development

On Friday night, the precipitation will move eastwards. On Saturday morning there will be bright spells in western regions. Over the course of the day, new clouds are expected to move in. In eastern regions it will remain overcast. By Saturday evening in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is expected, in the remaining regions 5 to 10 cm. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 7 degrees in northern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions. On Friday night the wind will shift to northerly. In eastern regions it will be moderate to strong, in western regions light to moderate.

Small to medium sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form which, together with the fresh-fallen snow, will be poorly bonded with the old snowpack in some places.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions: on the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1800 m; in the Valais, Ticino and Grisons, above approximately 2000 m. A single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger avalanches, particularly in freshly deposited snowdrift. New fallen snow and snowdrift blanket older danger zones in some places. In isolated cases, avalanches can fracture down to the old snowpack, particularly in the western and northern regions. In the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, the old snowpack is better consolidated; in those regions, the major hazard stems from fresh snowdrift. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs require extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche perils.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will be partly sunny in western and southern regions. In eastern regions, a small amount of additional snowfall is anticipated. On Monday it will be quite sunny. The avalanche danger will gradually decrease.

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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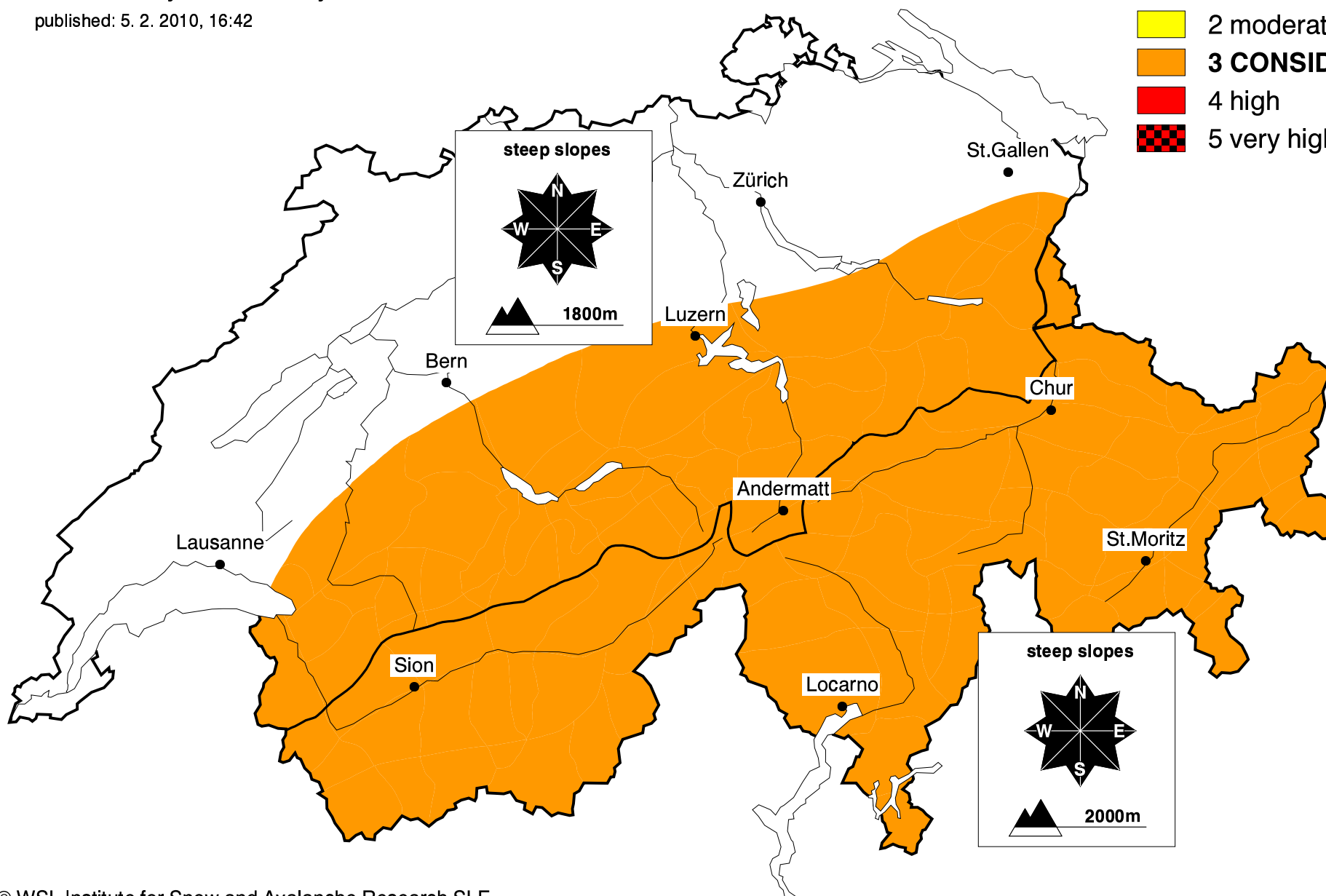
Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 6. February 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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