

National avalanche bulletin no. 86

for Sunday, 7 February 2010

issue date 6.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Danger zones are blanketed over, considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Saturday in western and southern regions it was sunny in some areas, in eastern regions it was heavily overcast. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 6 degrees in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions. On Friday night, the northerly winds were blowing at moderate to strong velocity in eastern and southern regions in particular; in western regions they were light to moderate. During the day on Saturday, the winds slackened off. Since Friday morning in the Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps there has been 15 to 30 cm of snowfall, in some spots as much as 40 cm. In the remaining regions there was 5 to 15 cm of snowfall. The new fallen snow covers and conceals older danger zones, which makes the overall situation far more treacherous. Avalanches ordinarily fracture in the fresh fallen snow and snowdrift, yet in some places break through to the old snowpack. They can attain medium size. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, the snow layering is more favourable, and breakthroughs down to the old snowpack are less probable. Exceedingly numerous avalanches released by backcountry skiers and freeriders on Saturday confirmed the highly delicate snow situation.

Short-term development

On Saturday night in northeastern regions, a further 5 to 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated. On Sunday in the Valais and in southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny, in northern and eastern regions increasingly so. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 7 degrees in northern regions and minus 4 in southern regions. A northeasterly wind of moderate velocity is expected to prevail at high altitudes in particular. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are relatively small. The unfavourable snow layering which is prevalent far and wide is not expected to improve anytime soon.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Grisons not including Ofen Pass or Münstertal:

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 not including Urseren as well as in northern Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are found above approximately 1600 m; in the remaining regions of this danger level, above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered by a single backcountry skier or freerider. In isolated cases, naturally triggered avalanches are also possible. New fallen snow and snowdrift blanket older danger zones in some places. Avalanches can break through to the old snowpack, particularly in northern regions. In the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, the major peril stems from fresh snowdrift in particular. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs require extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche hazards.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri; Ofen Pass and Münstertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1600 m. Freshly formed as well as older snowdrift accumulations make a cautious route selection imperative.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will be predominantly sunny. On Tuesday, new clouds will move in from the southwest and light precipitation will set in. The avalanche danger is expected to decrease only very gradually, particularly in the regions with unsound snow layering.

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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

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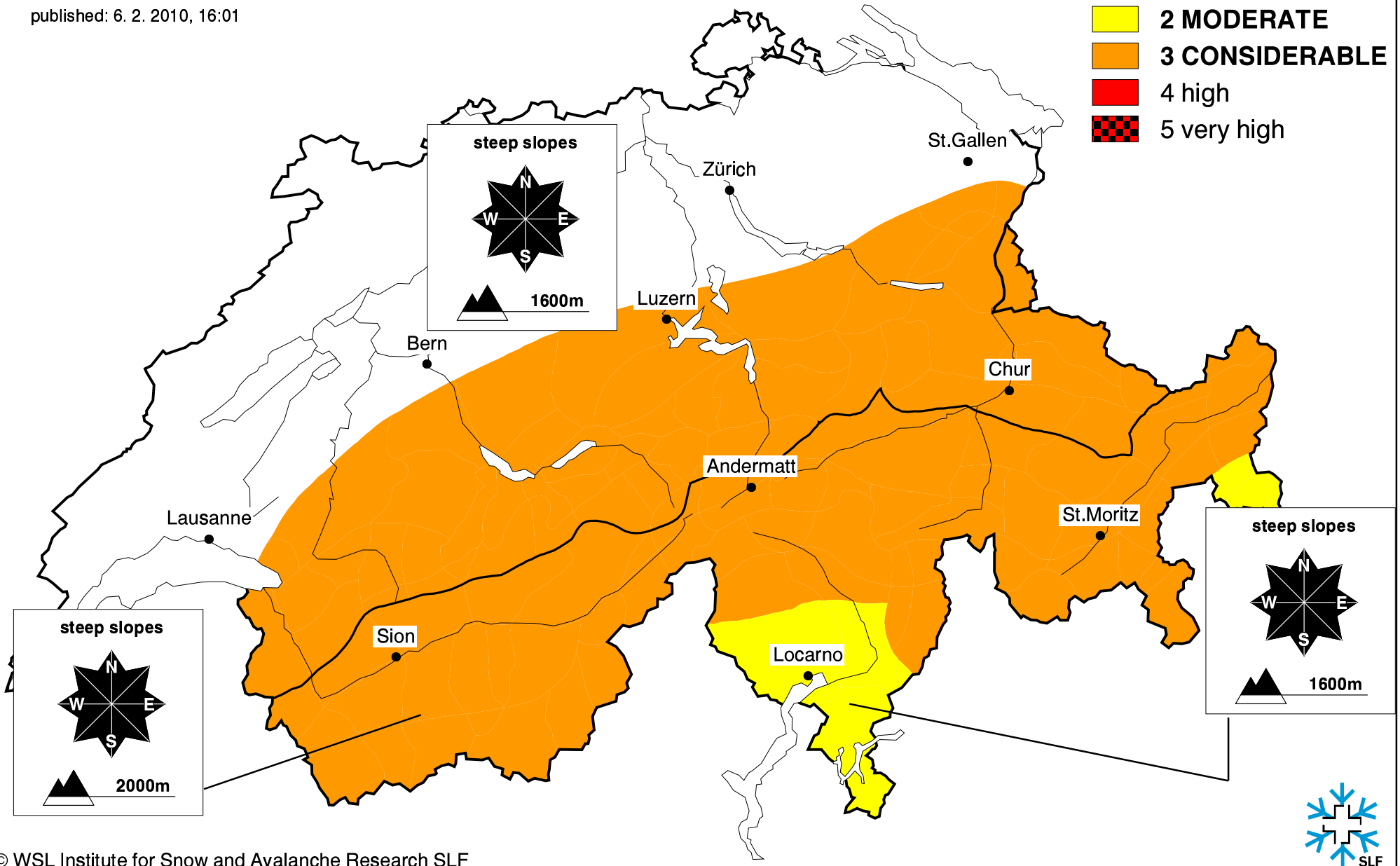
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 7. February 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 7. February 2010

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Danger level

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

