

National avalanche bulletin no. 87

for Monday, 8 February 2010

issue date 7.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Treacherous situation for backcountry skiers and freeriders, avalanche danger is considerable widely spread

Current conditions

On Sunday in the Valais and in southern regions it was generally sunny. In northern regions it was predominantly overcast and there was a final bit of snowfall. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 7 degrees in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions. A northeasterly wind was blowing at moderate to strong velocity on the northern Alpine Ridge and in the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge in particular, elsewhere the wind was light to moderate.

Snowdrift accumulations which were prone to triggering have formed. In addition, trigger sensitive locations which are older and blanketed over with fresh fallen snow remain highly delicate, making the overall situation more treacherous. Avalanches can attain medium size. On the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, the snow layering is more favourable and it is less likely that avalanches will break through to the old snowpack. Exceedingly numerous avalanches triggered by backcountry skiers and freeriders on Sunday underscored again the very treacherous situation.

Short-term development

On Monday it will be predominantly sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees in northern regions and minus 7 degrees in southern regions. The wind will shift to southwesterly and be blowing at light to moderate strength.

The unfavourable snow layering is prevalent far and wide and is not expected to improve anytime soon.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

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 even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. In isolated cases, naturally triggered avalanches are also possible. Fresh fallen snow and snowdrift cover and conceal older danger zones in many places.

Avalanches can in isolated cases break through down to the old snowpack. In some regions, whumpfung sounds are indicators of the peril. In the central and eastern parts of the Main Alpine Ridge and in southern regions, the major hazard stems primarily from freshly formed snowdrift masses. Extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche dangers is imperative for backcountry tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs.

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 Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday, new clouds will move in from the southwest and light precipitation is expected to set in. On Wednesday, the precipitation will move eastwards. The avalanche situation is not expected to change significantly. Particularly in those regions with unsound snow layering, the danger will decrease 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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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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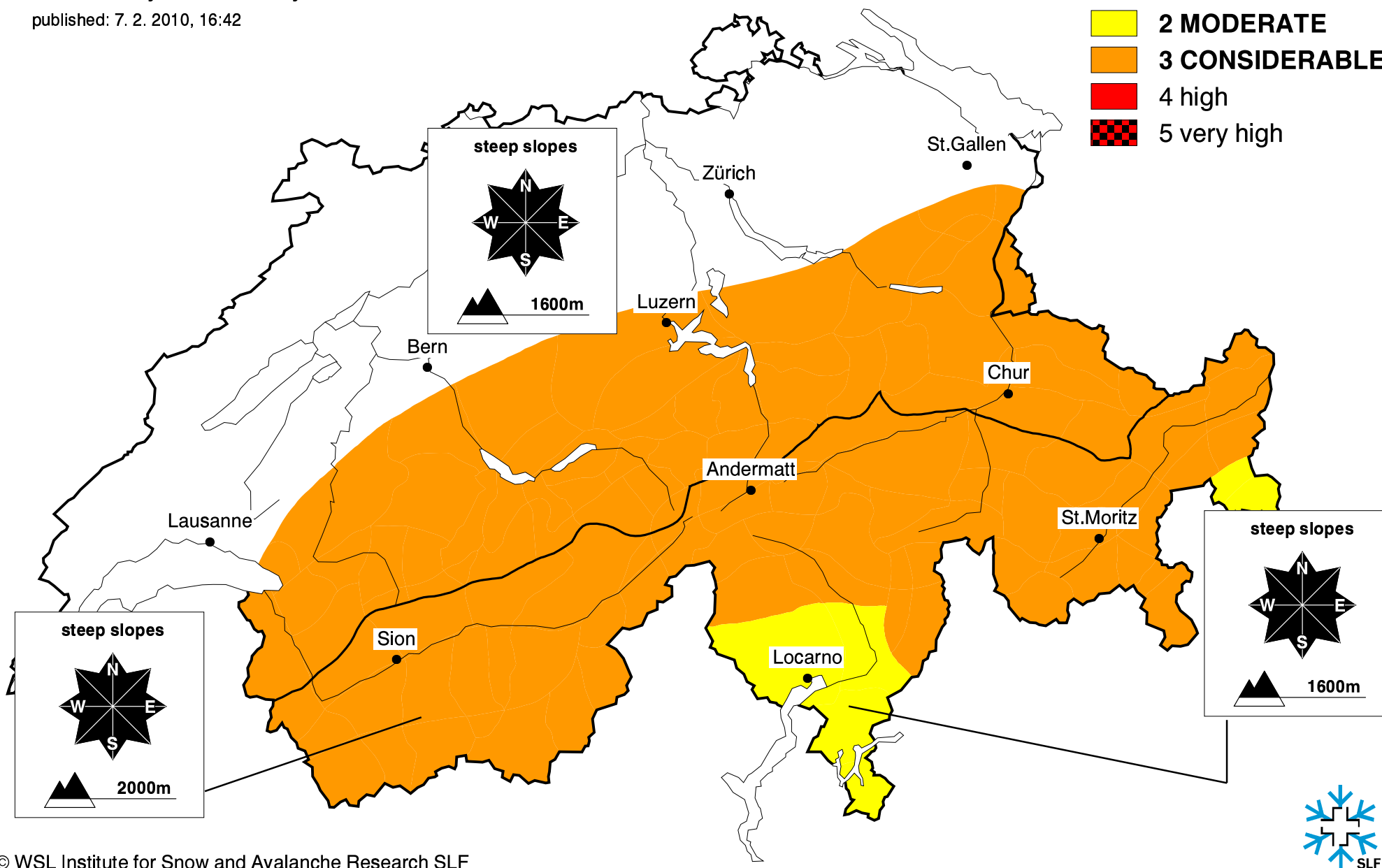
Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 8. 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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Danger level

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

