

National avalanche bulletin no. 97

for Thursday, 18 February 2010

issue date 17.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Snowfall especially in southern regions, fresh snowdrift accumulations widespread

Current conditions

On Wednesday there was snowfall on the southern flank of the Alps. In the remaining regions it was heavily overcast. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were zero degrees in northern regions and minus 5 degrees in southern regions. A moderate southerly wind was blowing, in foehn exposed areas and along the Alpine Ridges the wind was strong. Over the last two days, the central part of the southern flank of the Alps and the Simplon region received 15 to 30 cm of snowfall. In the bordering parts of the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Bernina region there was 5 to 15 cm of snowfall. In the remaining regions there was either no snowfall at all or just a few centimeters.

The southerly wind, which was strong in some regions, has brought about hardened snowdrift accumulations which are very prone to triggering. Beneath the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, the snowpack is faceted and loosely packed widespread.

Short-term development

On Thursday above approximately 1000 m a few centimeters of snowfall is expected widespread. Most of the snowfall by 10 to 20 cm is anticipated in the mountains of Ticino as far as the Bernina region. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. The southwesterly wind will be strong in western regions, elsewhere of moderate velocity.

Particularly in the summit regions and in foehn exposed areas, fresh fallen snow and, persistently, the old snow will continue to be transported.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern Alpine Ridge on the northern flank of the Alps; Trient; Champex; Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to Bernina Pass; northern Ticino:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in southwestern to northern to southeastern exposition above approximately 1800 m. Most perilous of all are the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. They are only poorly bonded with the old snowpack. They can be easily triggered. In isolated cases, even naturally triggered avalanches are possible. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche hazards, as well as cautious and danger-adapted route selection are important.

Remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including the regions of Chablais, Trient, Champex and not including the Main Alpine Ridge; in addition, central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri; Grisons not including the regions of the Main Alpine Ridge from Oberalp Pass to Bernina Pass:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions. In the remaining parts of the northern flank of the Alps they are found above approximately 1800 m, elsewhere above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered especially in transition areas from shallow to deep snow. The southerly wind has brought about easily triggered snowdrift accumulations on north facing slopes in particular. A prudent route selection continues to be recommended.

In all regions, isolated full depth snowslides and sluffs are possible at lower altitudes.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

Snowfall is anticipated widespread, in southern regions to begin with, later also in northern regions. The snowfall level will vary between 1000 m and 700 m. The avalanche danger is expected to escalate from region to region.

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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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

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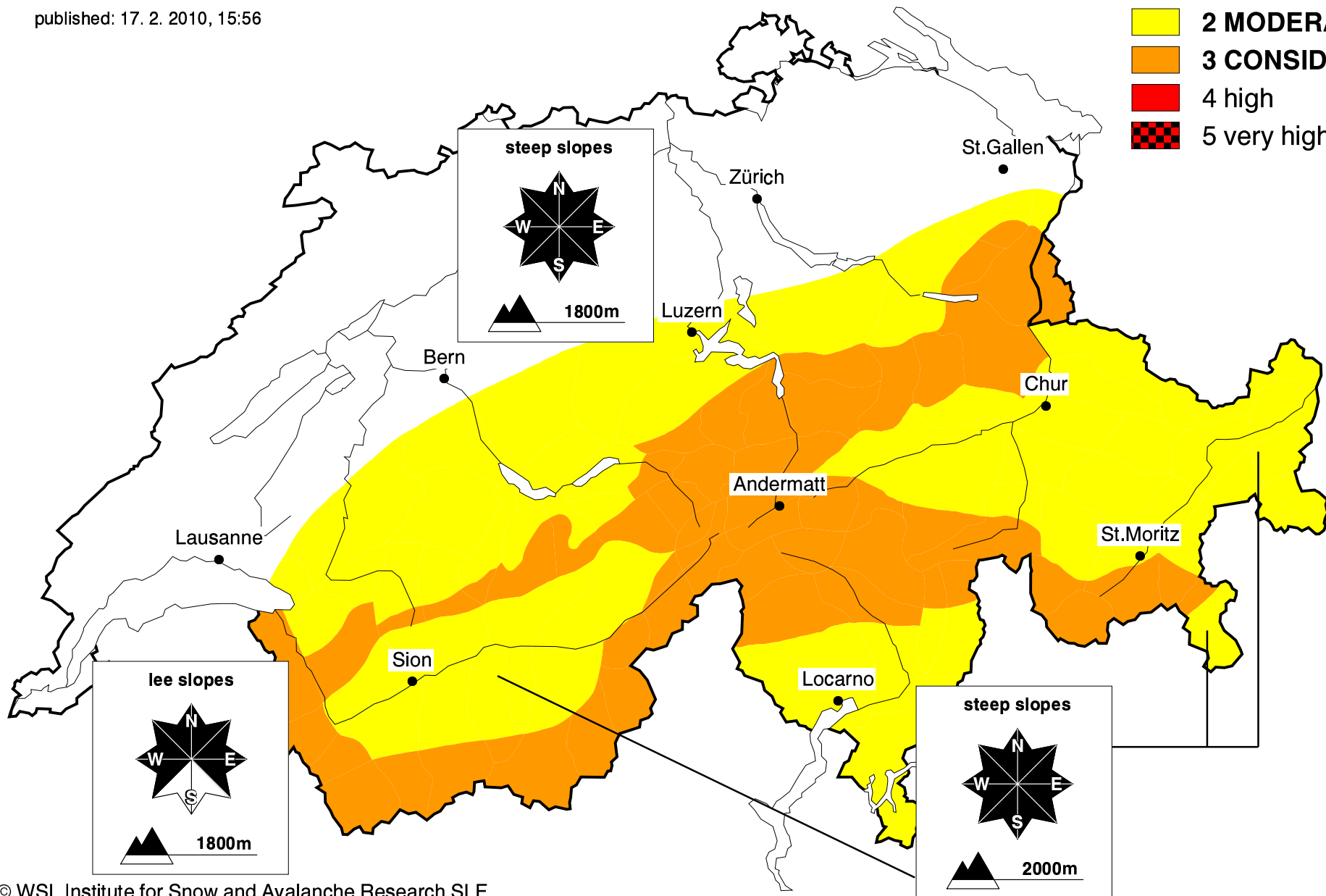
Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 18. 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

