

## National avalanche bulletin no. 103

for Wednesday, 24 February 2010

issue date 23.2.2010, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable avalanche danger in some regions*

#### Current conditions

On Tuesday, the weather was changeable, with showery precipitation in the west and north in particular. Sunny spells occurred in Grisons in particular. Since Monday evening, 10 to 20 cm of snow have fallen in northern and the extreme west of Lower Valais. A few centimetres of snow have fallen on the northern and southern flanks of the Alps and in Upper Engadine. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 2 degrees. The wind was moderate to strong from the southwest during the night, and light to moderate from the west during the day.

As a consequence of the mild temperatures and strong winds, the snow drift accumulations that have formed during the past two days are hard over a wide area. In many places, they are covering older, consolidated layers which, in turn, are lying on top of loosely bonded layers. The bonding between the individual layers of the snowpack is poor in some regions. These conditions are especially prevalent below approximately 2400 to 2700 m and in places where the snow cover is shallow. At higher altitudes, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable because of the greater exposure to wind throughout the winter. The situation is likewise more favourable in highly frequented backcountry terrain.

#### Short-term development

On Wednesday the weather will be changeable with sunny intervals and a little precipitation. In all regions, a few centimetres may fall above approximately 1400 m. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 2 degrees. The wind will be light to moderate from the west.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern Alpine ridge from Chablais to the Wildstrubel region; Champex; main Alpine ridge; northern and central Grisons excluding the regions north of the Anterior Rhine; also Engadine; Puschlav; Münstertal:

*Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

On the main Alpine ridge from the Gotthard region to Lower Engadine, and in Puschlav, Münstertal and central Grisons, excluding northern Surselva, the avalanche prone locations are steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In the other regions subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m.

Avalanches can easily be released by a single person. They can be triggered either in the weakly bonded old snow, or in near-surface snow drift accumulations. Medium-sized natural avalanches are possible. Alarm signs, such as whumpfing sounds, are an indication of the high likelihood of triggering. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger is important.

Other regions on the northern flank of the Alps; central Valais; Lötschental; Aletsch region; Grisons north of the Anterior Rhine; regions south of the central part of the main Alpine ridge:

*Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are steep slopes of all aspects. They are to be found above approximately 2000 m in the relevant regions of Valais, and above approximately 1800 m elsewhere. Snow drift accumulations that have been pressed hard by the wind can be released as avalanches, especially by large additional loads. This danger exists, in particular, in the regions exposed to the foehn. Avalanches that penetrate deep into the old snowpack can even reach medium size. Careful route selection is required.

Below approximately 2000 m, isolated wet full-depth avalanches, including slab avalanches, can occur in all regions, in particular on steep grassy slopes.

#### Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday, it will be changeable in the north and fairly sunny in the south. On Friday, some snow will fall initially in the west and north in particular, but then the weather will brighten up. In the north it will become a little milder. On Thursday, before becoming colder again on Friday. The avalanche danger will decrease further on Thursday before increasing a little in some regions on Friday.

##### 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

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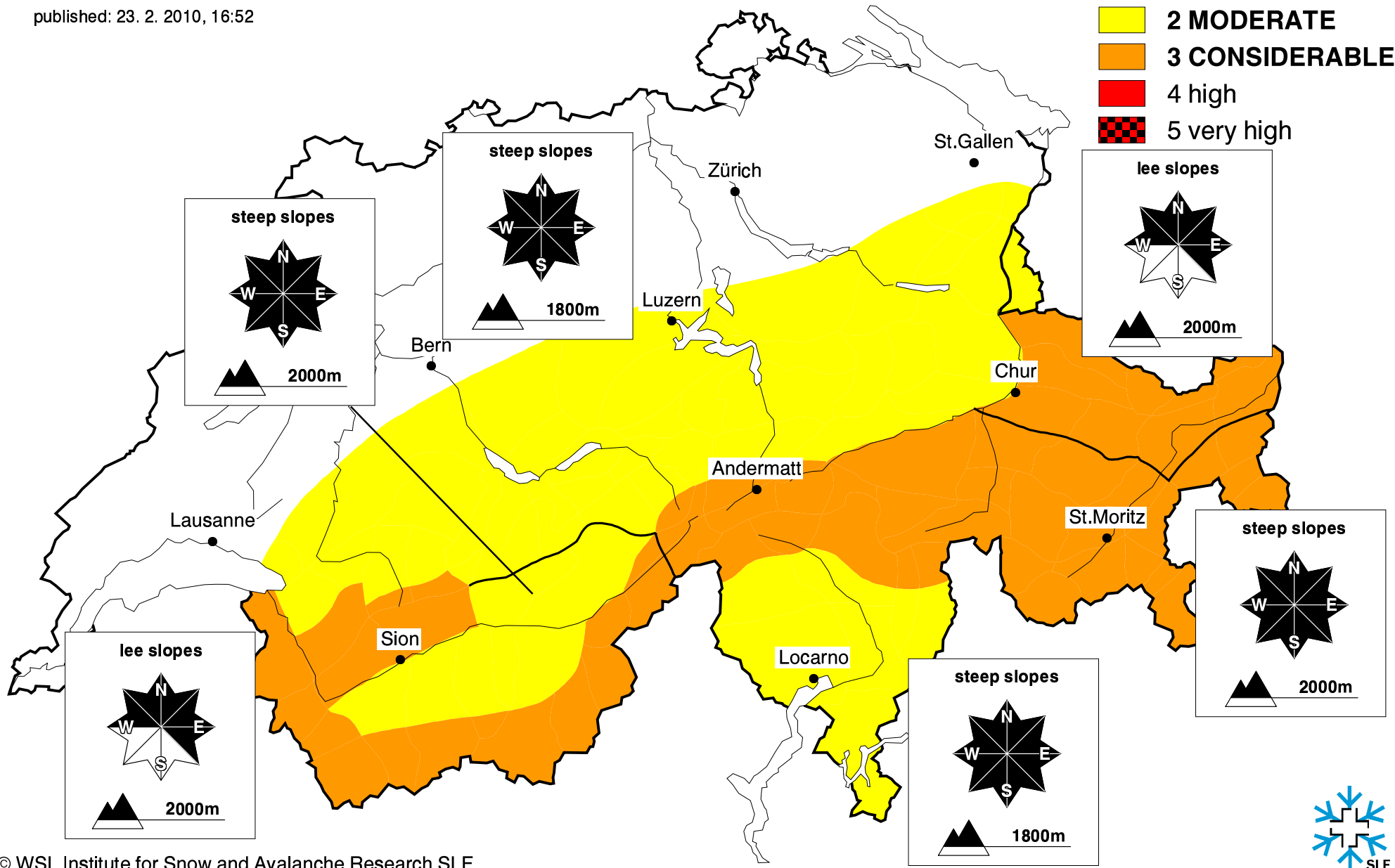
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 24. February 2010

published: 23. 2. 2010, 16:52

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 24. February 2010

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Danger level

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

