

National avalanche bulletin no. 104

for Thursday, 25 February 2010

issue date 24.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger in some regions

Current conditions

On Wednesday in western and northern regions it was often heavily overcast, on the southern flank of the Alps and in Grisons predominantly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 1 degree. A light southwesterly wind was blowing during the day.

Hardened layers of snow near the uppermost surface often lie on top of loosely packed layers of the old snowpack. The bonding of the layers to one another is poor in some places. These conditions are especially pronounced below 2400 to 2700 m and in places with shallow snow. Due to heavy wind influence throughout the winter, the snow layering is more favourable at higher altitudes. The situation is also more favourable in outlying terrain which has been regularly and heavily used. Through the mild temperatures, the snowpack at intermediate altitudes is more and more often becoming thoroughly wet, particularly on south facing slopes.

Short-term development

On Wednesday night in western regions, a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated. In the morning hours of Thursday, it will be intermittently sunny. During the afternoon, precipitation will set in from the west. By Thursday evening in the furthest western regions of the Lower Valais, as much as 10 cm of snowfall is expected, elsewhere less. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 1 degree. The southwesterly wind is expected to increase significantly in velocity over the course of the day.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern Alpine Ridge from Chablais to the Wildstrubel region; Champex; Main Alpine Ridge from Grand St. Bernard into Simplon region; southern Goms; northern and central Grisons not including the regions north of the Anterior Rhine; in addition, Engadine; Bergell, Puschlav; Müntertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In central Grisons not including the northern Surselva, in addition in Upper Engadine, in Bergell, in Puschlav, in southern Lower Engadine and in Müntertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the danger zones are to be found primarily on west to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be easily triggered by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Especially in the indicated regions of central Grisons and of the Engadine, avalanches fracture predominantly in the weak old snowpack. In isolated cases, avalanches which attain medium size are possible. Particularly in the indicated regions of the Valais, fresh, relatively small sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form over the course of the day, which must be evaluated with great care. Extensive experience in spotting and assessing avalanche hazards is important.

Remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps, of the Valais and of Grisons; Ticino:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Snowdrift accumulations which have been compressed and hardened by the wind can be triggered as avalanches primarily through large additional loading. In isolated cases avalanches can fracture down to deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack and thereby attain medium size. A cautious route selection is essential.

In all regions, below about 2000 m particularly on steep, grass covered slopes, moist full depth sluffs or snowslides can be unleashed which can attain medium size

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday, snowfall is anticipated. Most of the fresh fallen snow, 30 to 40 cm, is expected in Lower Valais. A strong westerly wind will prevail. On Saturday it will be quite sunny. During the afternoon, clouds will move in. The avalanche danger will increase widespread on Friday. It is not expected to change significantly on Saturday.

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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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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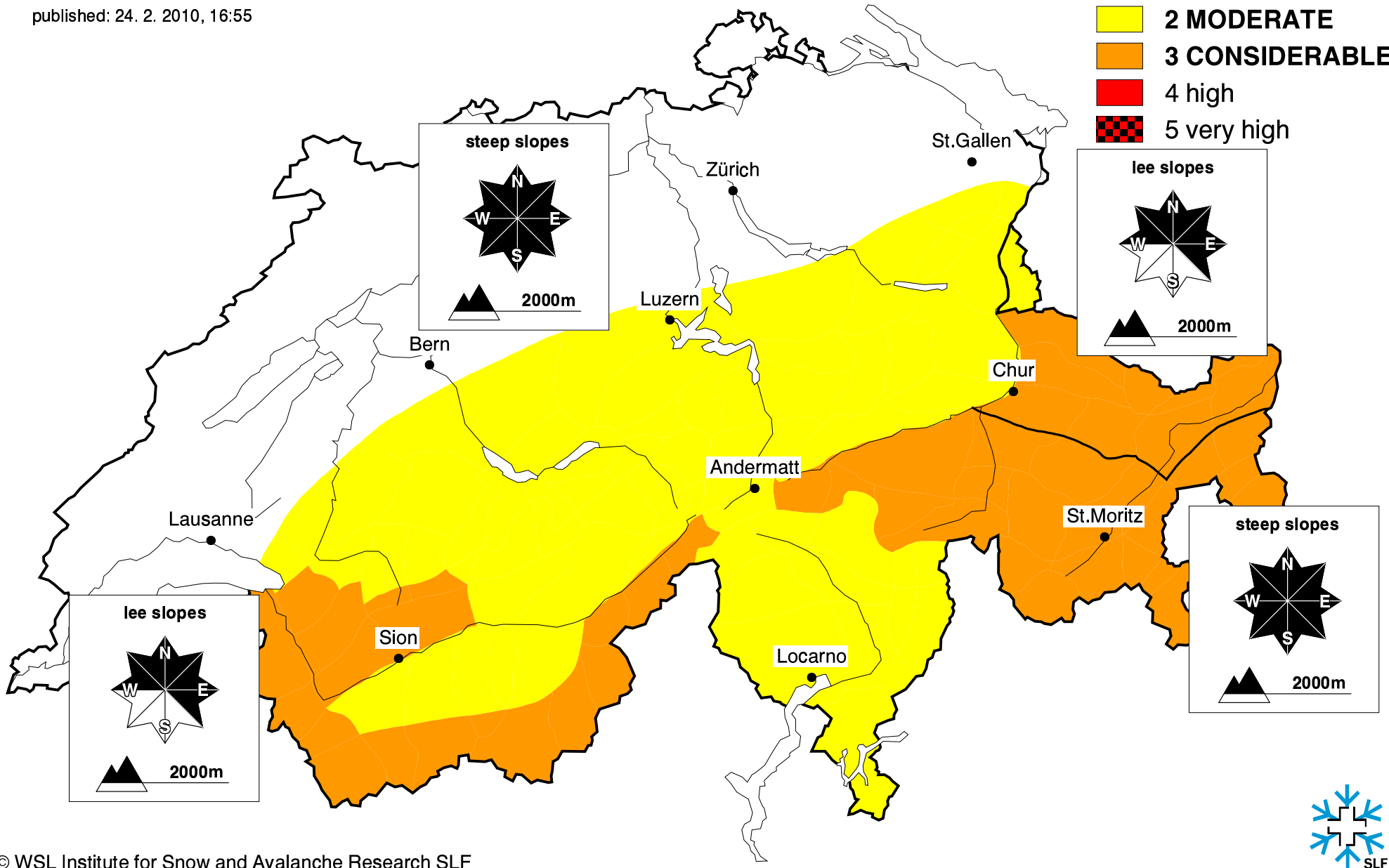
Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 25. February 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 25. February 2010

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Danger level

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

