

National avalanche bulletin no. 105

for Friday, 26 February 2010

issue date 25.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche situation is critical in some regions, due to snowfall and storm

Current conditions

On Thursday in northern regions it was predominantly sunny to begin with, in southern regions it was partly so. In western regions it increasingly became heavily overcast, then during the afternoon above approximately 1500 m snowfall set in. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 1 degree. A moderate southwesterly wind was blowing, in western regions the wind was intermittently strong. The wind led to the forming of fresh snowdrift accumulations, particularly in western regions. Embedded inside the snowpack near the surface are hardened layers, often lying atop loosely packed layers of old snow. The bonding of these various layers to each other is poor in some regions. Aforesaid conditions are particularly pronounced below 2400 to 2700 m as well as in areas with shallow snow. At intermediate altitudes, the snowpack has become thoroughly wet on south facing slopes in particular.

Short-term development

On Friday it will be heavily overcast. Between Thursday and Friday afternoon above approximately 2000 m, the following amounts of snowfall are expected: Vaud Alps, Fribourg Alps and Valais 20 to 30 cm; in the furthestmost western regions as much as 40 cm; remaining western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well as the southern flank of the Alps 10 to 20 cm; eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and remaining Grisons maximum 10 cm. The snowfall level will drop from about 1500 m down to low lying areas. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 6 degrees in western regions and minus 4 degrees in eastern and southern regions. A strong to storm-strength wind will be blowing; it will shift directions from southwesterly to westerly, then to northwesterly. The fresh fallen snow and loosely packed snow on the surface of the snowpack will be transported. At high altitudes in the major areas of precipitation, frequent and large sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form. At intermediate altitudes, the snowpack will deteriorate, weakened by the rainfall.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Chablais; Trient; Champex; Great St. Bernard:

High avalanche danger (Level 4)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Naturally triggered, generally medium sized avalanches can be expected. These can also sweep along the moist snow at intermediate altitudes. Exposed parts of transportation routes may be placed at risk.

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

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, in the western Bernese Oberland, in the remaining Valais, in central Grisons, in the Upper Engadine, in southern Lower Engadine, in Bergell, in Puschlav and in Münstertal, 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 avalanche prone locations are found primarily on wind loaded slopes in western to northern to southern exposition above approximately 2000 m.

In the western regions, naturally triggered avalanches are possible, which can attain medium size. The new fallen snow and the fresh snowdrift can be easily triggered by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture in the weak old snowpack. Long and profound experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Through the course of the day, fresh snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering are expected to form. A cautious route selection is essential.

In all regions, below about 2000 m, particularly on very steep hillsides and grass covered slopes, wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides are possible. They can, in some areas, attain medium size.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday it will be quite sunny. On Sunday in western and southern regions, snowfall is anticipated. In northern regions there will be bright intervals accompanied by strong foehn winds. The avalanche danger will recede on Saturday in western regions in particular. It is not expected to change significantly on Sunday.

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

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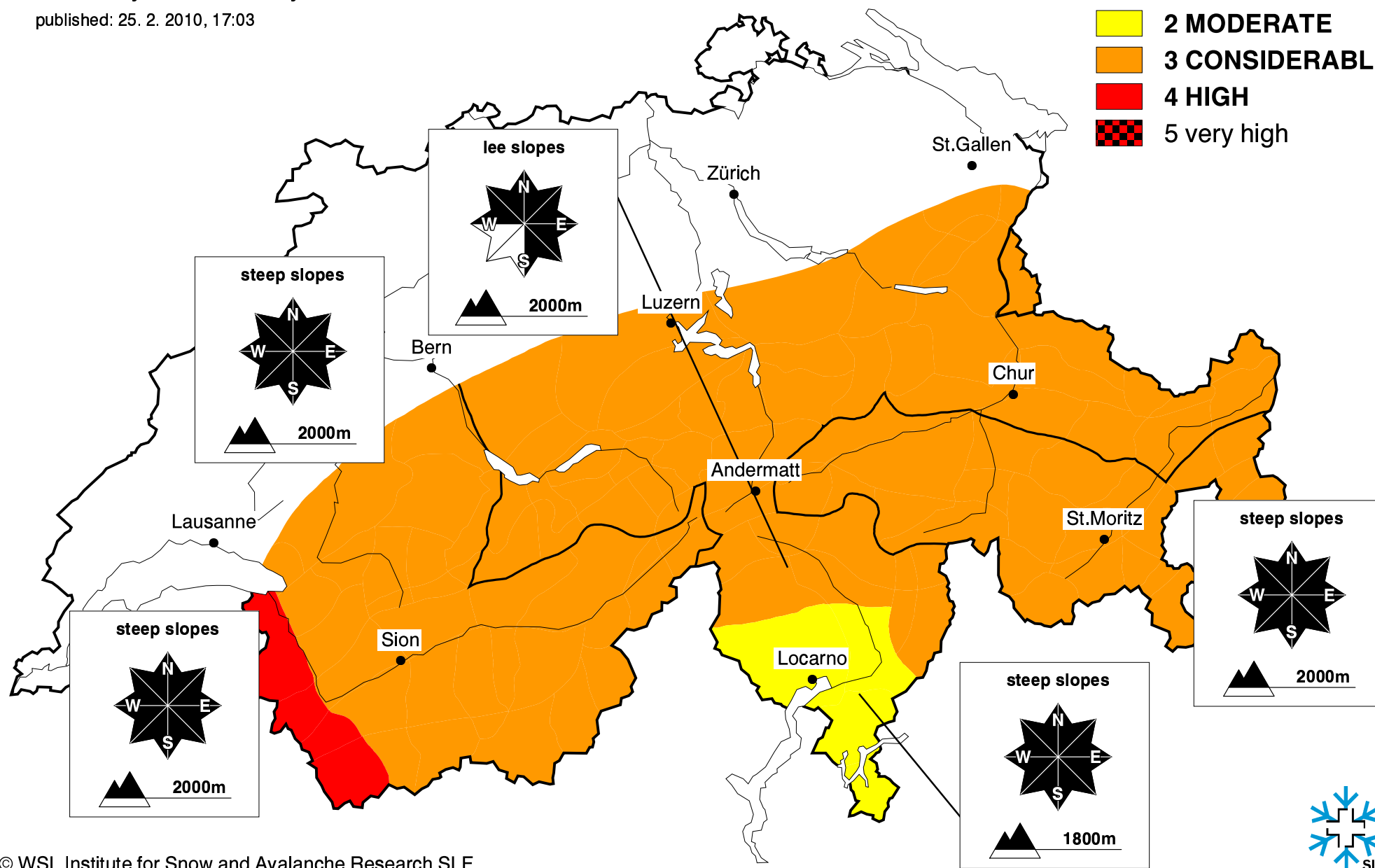
Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 26. February 2010

published: 25. 2. 2010, 17:03

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 26. February 2010

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