

National avalanche bulletin no. 107

for Sunday, 28 February 2010

issue date 27.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Amidst storm-strength winds, ongoingly critical avalanche situation

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny to begin with; increasingly during the afternoon it turned heavily overcast from the west. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 3 degrees, in northwestern regions zero degrees. During the night a moderate to strong northwesterly wind prevailed in some regions, during the day today it shifted to southwesterly and blew at moderate strength. The layers of fresh fallen snow from this week are gradually settling and consolidating, particularly on south facing slopes. In all other expositions, the layers nearest the surface are still loosely packed, thus, they can be transported. Embedded in the old snowpack are loosely packed layers which are prone to triggering, especially prevalent below 2400 to 2700 m and in areas with shallow snowpack. At intermediate altitudes, the snowpack has become thoroughly wet, particularly so in western regions.

Short-term development

Tonight it will be heavily overcast and in southern regions precipitation is expected to set in. On Sunday in northern and eastern regions it will be variably cloudy, in western and southern regions heavily overcast. In southern regions the precipitation is expected to continue throughout the day. By Sunday afternoon in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge and on the southern flank of the Alps, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is expected. In the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in the remaining Valais, in the Gotthard region and in the Upper Engadine, 5 to 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated, in the areas bordering to the north only a few centimeters. During the night tonight, the freezing level in northern regions is expected to ascend towards 3000 m. During the day tomorrow, the temperature will drop: at 2000 m it is expected to be minus 1 degree at midday in northern regions, minus 4 degrees in southern regions. A strong to stormy southwesterly wind will be blowing. In the northernmost regions exposed to foehn influence, storm-strength foehn winds are expected to prevail. These will lead to compact, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations forming which in western regions in particular will be large sized.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern Alpine Ridge from Chablais to Wildstrubel; western Lower Valais:

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, predominantly medium sized avalanches can be expected. The avalanche situation is very critical for backcountry skiers and freeriders in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs in particular. Exposed sections of transportation routes can be placed at risk.

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

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the remaining western part of the northern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1600 m. In the remaining Valais, in Ticino and in Grisons, they are found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Avalanches which are capable of attaining medium size can be easily triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Naturally triggered avalanches are possible. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can also sweep along deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack. In isolated cases, exposed parts of transportation routes can be endangered.

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on southwest to north to southeast facing wind loaded slopes above approximately 1600 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be released as avalanches even by one single backcountry skier or freerider.

In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards, together with great restraint, are essential.

On the southern flank of the Alps below about 1500 m, in the remaining regions below about 2000 m, moist avalanches and full depth wet snowslides are possible. Such slides can attain medium size in some areas.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will be variably cloudy in northern regions, in southern regions it will be sunny. On Tuesday, a bit of snowfall is expected. The avalanche danger will incrementally decrease.

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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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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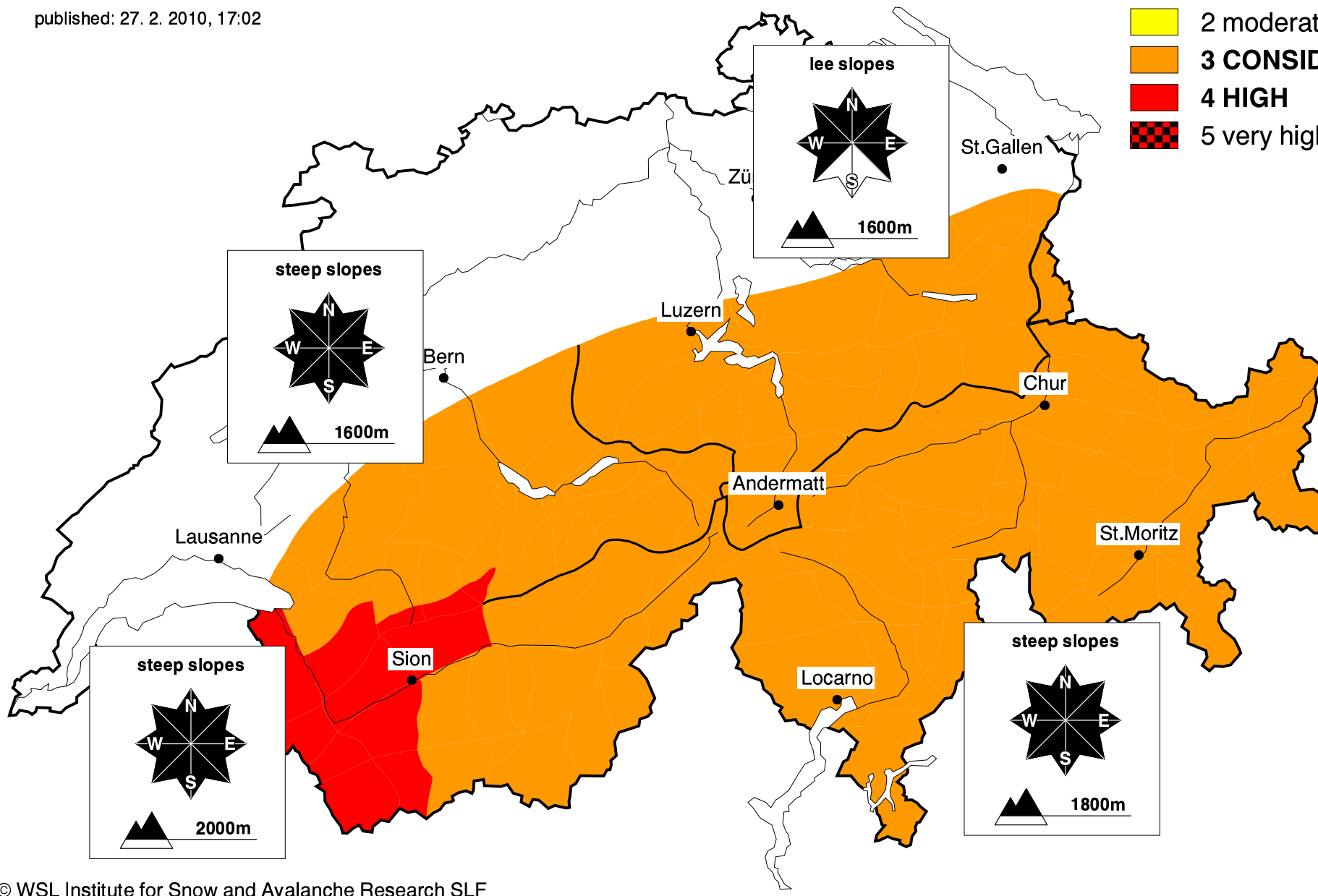
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 28. February 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 28. February 2010

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-  3 **CONSIDERABLE**
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