

National avalanche bulletin no. 108

for Monday, 1 March 2010

issue date 28.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is considerable widely spread

Current conditions

On Sunday in western and northern regions it was overcast, accompanied by showers and isolated bright intervals. In southern regions the cloud cover was dense. Between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon in the Valais, in the Gotthard region and on the southern flank of the Alps there was approximately 10 cm of snowfall, in western Lower Valais approximately 20 cm. In northwestern regions the snowfall level ascended temporarily to about 2200 m. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 1 degree in northern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions. During the night in northern regions, a gale-strength foehn wind storm was blowing. In the remaining regions and on Sunday, the southerly to southwesterly winds prevailed at moderate to strong velocity.

On the summits and along the ridges, the snow has been blown away. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations have been deposited far distant from the ridge lines and are prone to triggering. Embedded inside the old snowpack are loosely packed, trigger sensitive layers, particularly in inneralpine regions below 2400 to 2700 m and generally in areas with a shallow snowpack. At intermediate altitudes, the snowpack has become thoroughly wet, particularly so in western regions.

Short-term development

On Monday, residual cloudbanks will still be evident in eastern regions. Subsequently it will turn quite sunny for a short interim. Increasingly over the course of the day, clouds will move in from the west. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees. The wind is expected to slacken off during the night and on Monday be blowing at light to moderate strength from southwesterly to westerly directions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; Valais; Grisons; northern Ticino:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the Vaud Alps not including the Prealps, as well as in the western Bernese Alps not including the Prealps, in addition in the Valais, in Urseren, in northern Ticino and in Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches which are capable of attaining medium size can be easily triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Particularly in the Lower Valais, naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. More than anywhere else in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can also sweep along deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack. Extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative on backcountry skiing and freeriding tours.

In the eastern Bernese Alps not including the Prealps and in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps and not including Urseren, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in western to northern to southeastern exposition above approximately 2000 m. The snowdrift accumulations of the last few days can be easily released in some areas. A cautious route selection is important, in order to avoid such snowdrift whenever possible.

Northern Prealps; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m.

Freshly formed, predominantly small sized snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some areas and should be avoided whenever possible.

Especially on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in Grisons, full depth wet snowslides are possible below about 2200 m.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday in northern regions, snowfall is anticipated. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny, accompanied by northerly winds. On Wednesday in northern regions it will be partly sunny and in southern regions heavily overcast. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly on Tuesday and will gradually subside on Wednesday.

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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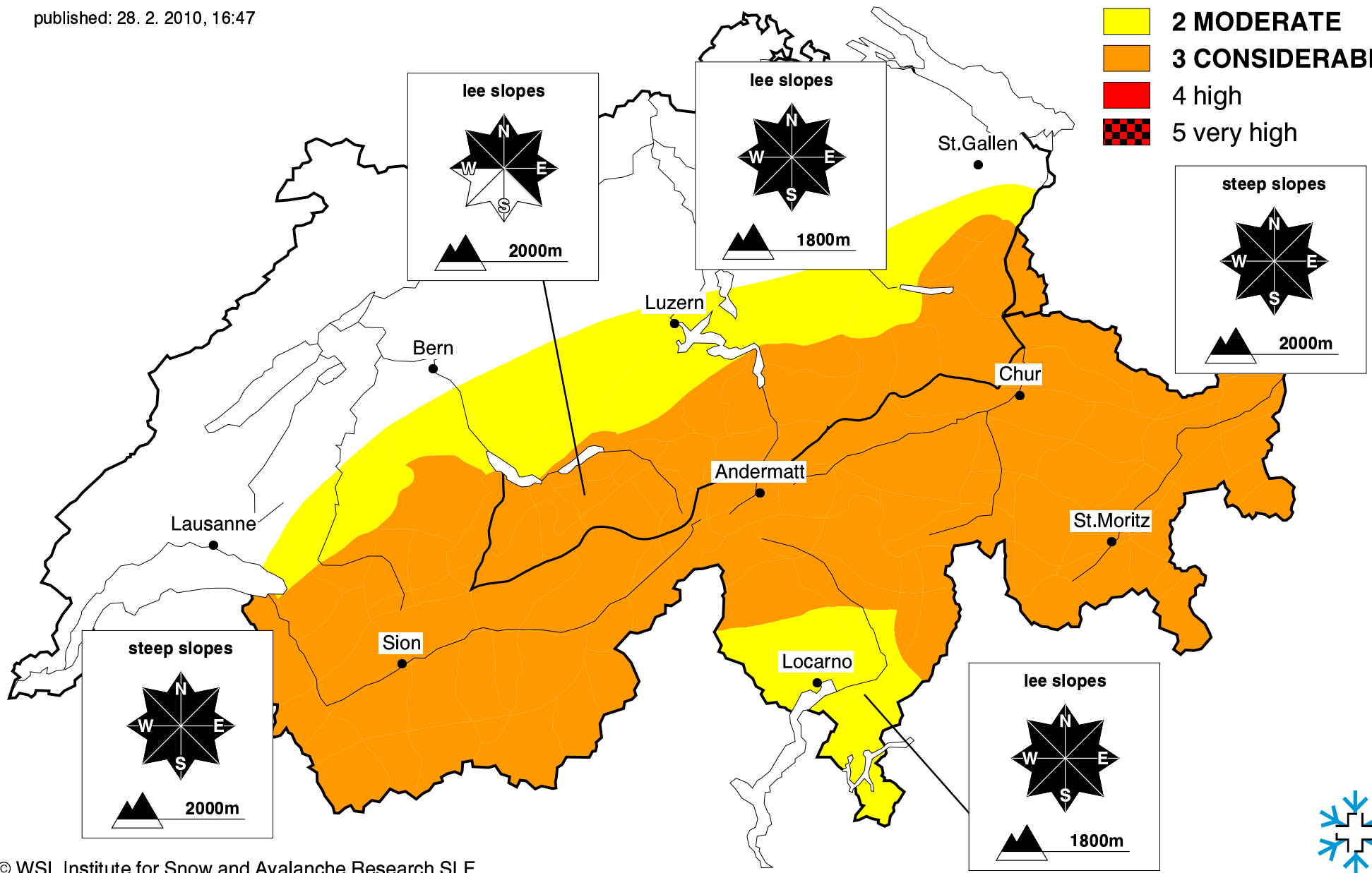
Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 1. March 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 1. March 2010

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Danger level

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

