

# National avalanche bulletin no. 38

for Monday, 2 January 2012

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## *Considerable avalanche danger widespread*

### Current conditions

On the morning of New Year's Day, the snowfall came to an end, including in eastern regions. Over the course of the day there were increasingly frequent bright spells. Since Thursday on the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, in the Valais not including the Simplon region, in northern Grisons, in the Silvretta and in the Samnaun, there has been 60 to 100 cm of snowfall. In the Prealps and from the Simplon region over northern Ticino and central Grisons into the Lower Engadine, there has been 30 to 60 cm of new fallen snow, further to the south 5 to 30 cm. During the night of New Year's Eve, the snowfall level ascended widespread up to 1800 to 2000 m. On New Year's Day, the midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 2 degrees. During the night the westerly wind was still blowing at strong velocity, then generally slackened off to moderate velocity during the day.

Due to the higher temperatures, the large amounts of fresh fallen snow have settled intensely. Particularly on the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Engadine on north facing slopes above approximately 2500 m, faceted and trigger sensitive layers are evident inside the snowpack near the ground.

### Short-term development

On Monday morning there will still be bright intervals in eastern regions. During the day, it will begin to snow from the west. The snowfall level will drop from 1700 m down to about 800 m. By Monday evening in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Valais, 15 to 30 cm of snowfall is anticipated; in the remaining regions, maximum 15 cm. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees. The wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity from westerly directions.

Due to the lower temperatures, the snowpack which is moist in places will stabilise increasingly below about 2000 m.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons not including the regions Val Calanca and Val Moesa:

#### *Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects. On the northern flank of the Alps the danger zones are above approximately 2000 m, in the remaining regions of this danger level they are above approximately 2200 m. The layers of new fallen snow and snowdrift from the last few days can still be easily triggered as avalanches in places. In addition, on the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Upper Engadine on north facing slopes above approximately 2500 m in particular, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. In western regions more than anywhere else, increasingly great caution is urged towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations over the course of the day. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, experience in evaluating avalanche dangers is important.

Central Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa:

#### *Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. The snowdrift accumulations from the last few days are trigger sensitive, but are generally small sized. They should be evaluated with great care.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, full depth snowslides continue to be possible below about 2000 m on steep, grassy slopes and on road embankments in all aspects. Exposed sections of transportation routes may be placed at risk.

### Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Monday night, the snowfall will come to an end. During the day on Tuesday, it will turn quite sunny. On Wednesday in northern regions, some intermittent snowfall is anticipated. In southern regions it will be partly sunny. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly.

#### 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)

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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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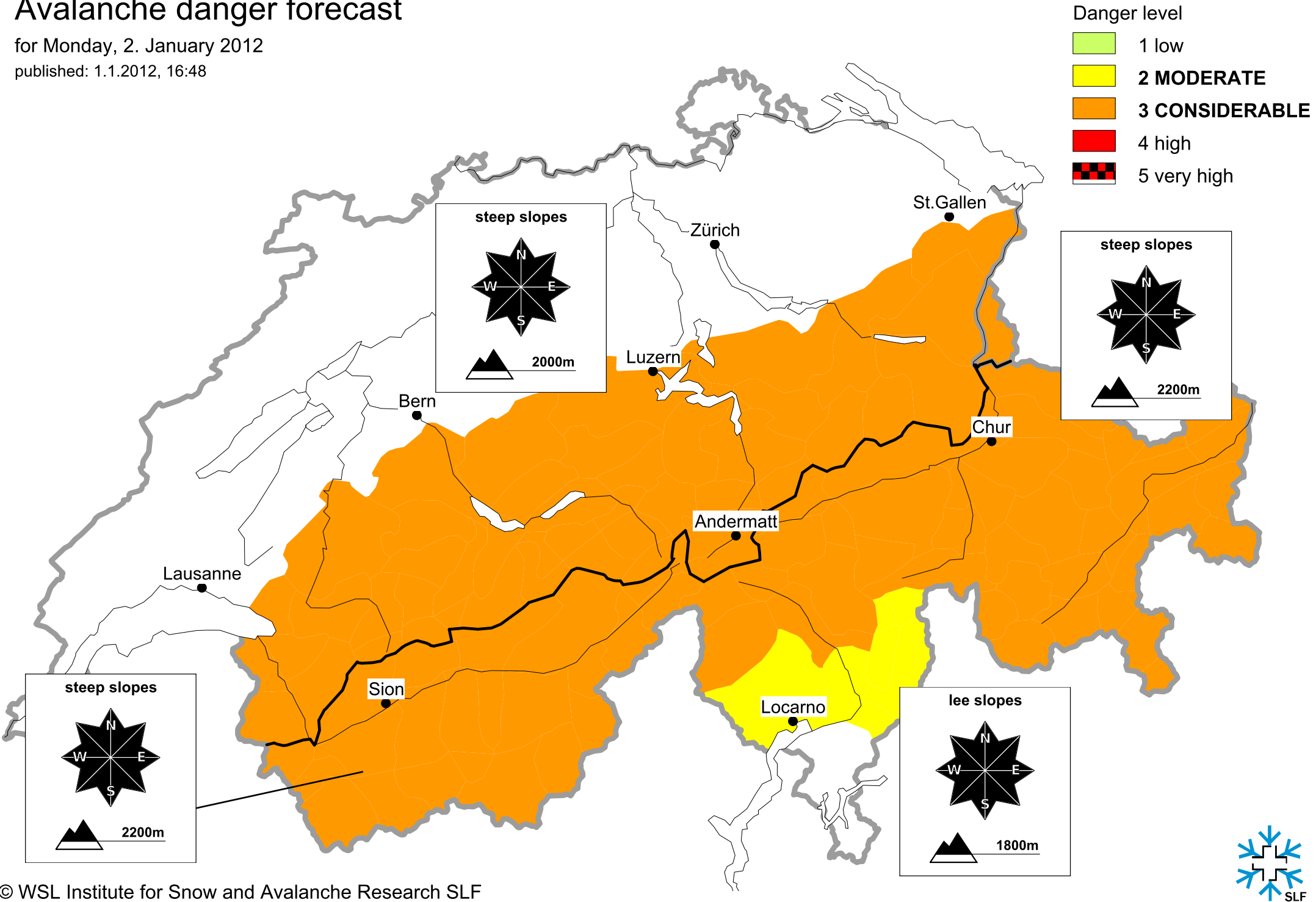
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# Avalanche danger forecast

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