



National avalanche bulletin no. 75

for Wednesday, 8 February 2012

issue date 7.2.2012, 18:30 hours

Main danger posed by snow drift accumulations, but full-depth avalanches require caution as well

Current conditions

Tuesday was cloudy with bright intervals. The northeasterly wind was moderate to strong on the northern Alpine ridge, in the central part of the main Alpine ridge, and in Lower Engadine. In the remaining regions the wind was light to moderate. The wind changed direction during the day, becoming easterly to southeasterly, and its strength eased a little. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 13 degrees.

Fresh and older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering in some cases. In areas that have not been influenced by the wind in recent days, the bonding of the snowpack is mostly favourable.

The ground remains insulated by the thick snowpack. Individual full-depth avalanches can still slide on the ground.

Short-term development

Wednesday will be mostly sunny in the mountains. The temperature at 2000 m will increase significantly and reach about minus 3 degrees at midday. During the night, the wind will be moderate to strong from the southeast. The wind will change direction during the day, becoming northeasterly. It will be light to moderate. Fairly small snow drift accumulations will form in some localities.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. In the western Prealps and to the south of the central part of the main Alpine ridge, they are to be found above approximately 1800 m. In the other regions north of the Rhone and Rhine, and in western Lower Valais, the Simplon region and the central part of the main Alpine ridge, they are to be found above approximately 2000 m. In the other regions of southern Valais and of Grisons, they are to be found above approximately 2400 m. Fresh snow drift accumulations and those that have formed in the last few days can be released even by a single person in some cases. In many cases they are to be found where the slope angle changes abruptly, in gullies and bowls, and they are generally recognisable. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided as far as possible, in very steep terrain in particular, by selecting a good route. The danger can be indicated by whumpfung sounds and the formation of shooting cracks when a person steps on the snowpack. The prevalence and size of the avalanche prone locations increase with altitude.

On the main Alpine ridge and to the north in particular, full-depth avalanches can occur below approximately 2400 m on west, south and east facing slopes. These can reach medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. Caution is to be exercised in areas below glide cracks.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday afternoon, cloud will build up from the northeast and a few snowflakes will fall. In Valais and the south it will remain fairly sunny. The wind will be strong from the north. On Friday, it will become increasingly sunny in the east; the weather will be mostly sunny elsewhere and it will become very cold again. The avalanche danger will not change significantly. Snow drift accumulations remain the main danger. Full-depth avalanches can still occur.

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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0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

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

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Avalanche danger forecast

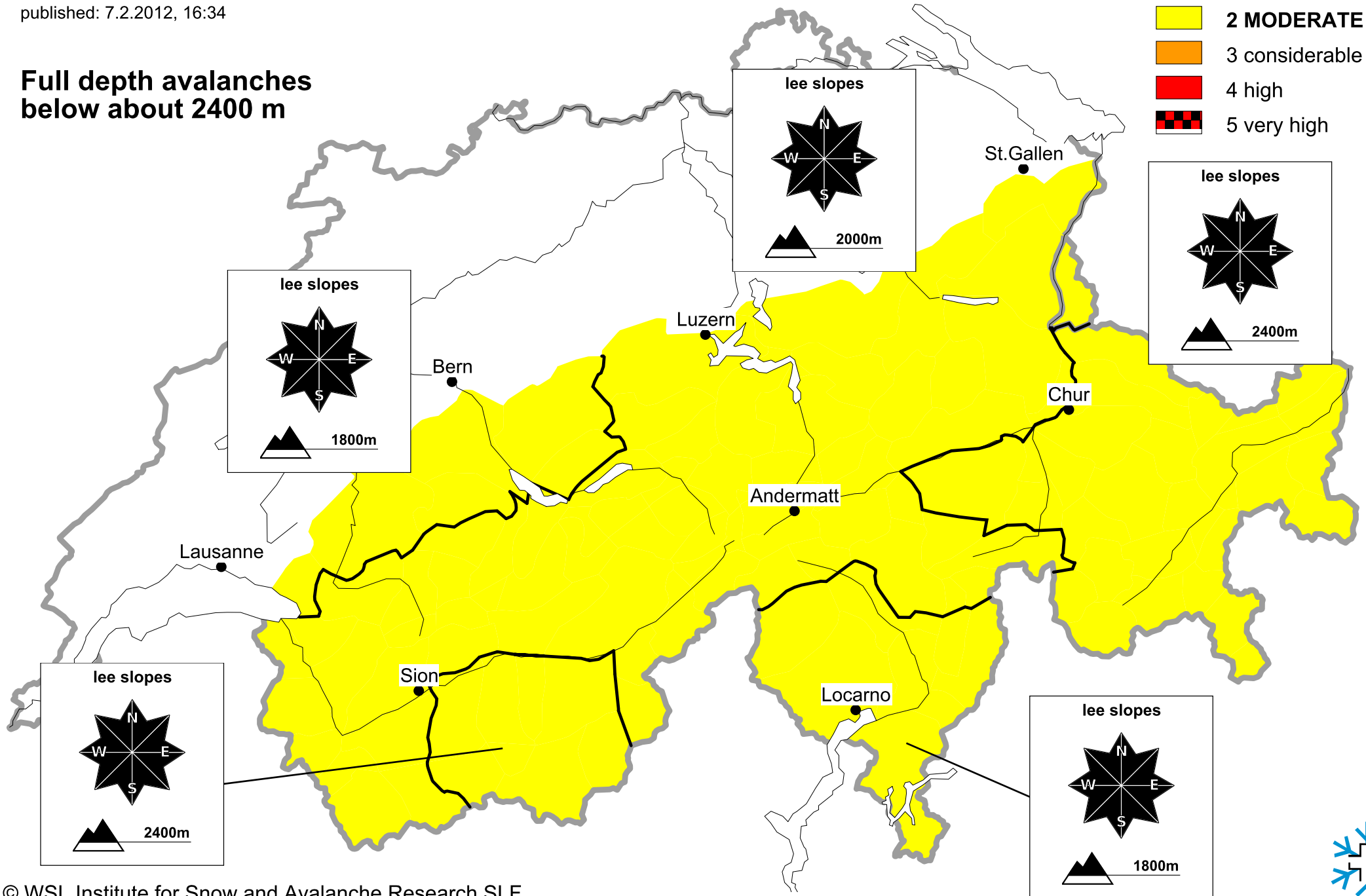
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Full depth avalanches below about 2400 m

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Full depth avalanches below about 2400 m

Danger level

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

