

National avalanche bulletin no. 76

for Thursday, 9 February 2012

issue date 8.2.2012, 18:30 hours

Snowdrift is the primary hazard, considerable avalanche danger in some regions

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was predominantly sunny. On the northern Alpine Ridge, in southern Upper Valais and in the Lower Engadine, the southeasterly wind was blowing at strong velocity. In the remaining regions, winds were light to moderate. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 3 degrees, approximately 10 degrees higher than the day before.

Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering in some places. Beneath these snowdrift accumulations, the snowpack is favourably structured by and large.

The deep snowpack tends to insulate the ground. Full depth avalanches which are released from the ground continue to be possible in isolated cases.

Short-term development

On Thursday it will be sunny to begin with in the mountains. During the afternoon in eastern regions, clouds will move in. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 10 degrees in eastern regions, elsewhere minus 7 degrees. At high altitude, a strong velocity northerly wind will be blowing. Fresh snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern Grisons; inneralpine regions of Grisons; Lower Engadine; Müntertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2600 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Whumpfung sounds and shooting cracks can be indicators of imminent avalanche danger. For those with experience, the snowdrift accumulations are usually discernible. They should be circumvented whenever possible. Wherever the wind has exercised no influence, the situation is much better. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, experience is essential.

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Main Alpine Ridge from Furka Pass into Val Chamuera and southwards thereof:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects. In the western Prealps as well as south of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge, the danger zones are found above approximately 1800 m, elsewhere above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed and several-day old snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places. They are been deposited in places where the slope gradient changes abruptly or in gullies and bowls; ordinarily they are easily discernible. Particularly in very steep terrain, the snowdrift accumulations should be circumvented whenever possible, primarily through a cautious route selection. Whumpfung sounds and shooting cracks when stepping onto the snowpack can be indicators of imminent avalanche danger. The avalanche prone locations tend to become increasingly frequent with ascending altitude.

On the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards thereof, more than anywhere else, below about 2400 m on west to south to east facing slopes, full depth snowslides are possible in isolated cases. These slides can reach medium size. In isolated cases, exposed sections of transportation routes can be placed at risk. Caution is urged below glide cracks in the snowpack.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Thursday night, some snowfall is anticipated in eastern regions. During the day on Friday, it will turn increasingly sunny from the west. On Saturday it will be sunny. It is expected to be very cold on both days, accompanied by moderate to strong velocity northeasterly winds. The avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly. Snowdrift remains the major peril. Full depth snowslides will continue to be possible.

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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

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Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch

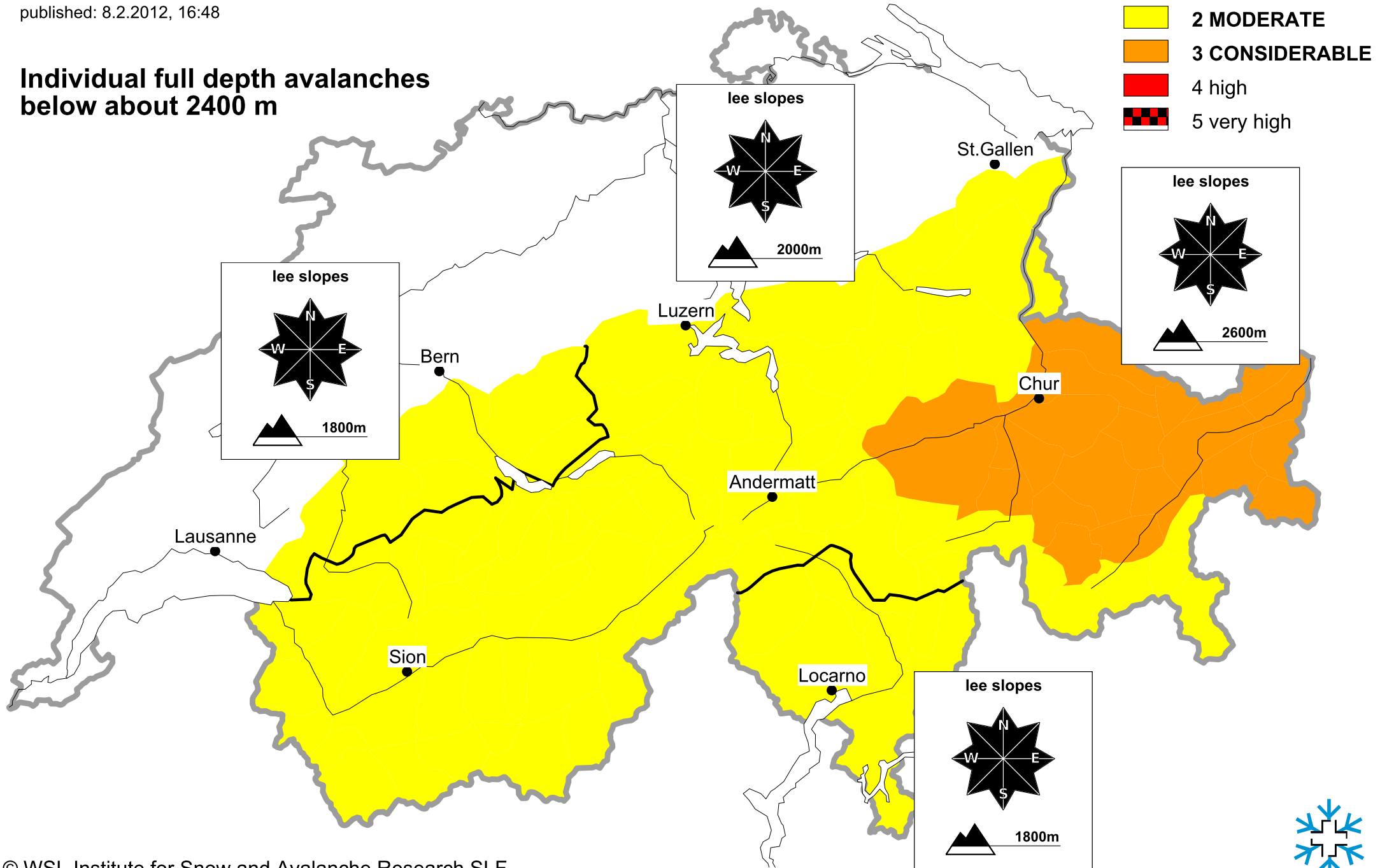
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 9. February 2012

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Individual full depth avalanches below about 2400 m



Avalanche danger forecast

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Individual full depth avalanches below about 2400 m

