

## National avalanche bulletin no. 77

for Friday, 10 February 2012

issue date 9.2.2012, 18:30 hours

### *Snowdrift accumulating through northeasterly winds - considerable avalanche danger widespread*

#### Current conditions

On Thursday it was sunny to begin with. At midday, clouds moved in from the northeast. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 7 degrees in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions. The wind shifted from northeasterly to northerly and was blowing widespread at moderate velocity; in the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Upper Engadine, winds were intermittently strong. Old snow was transported.

Freshly formed and, in some places, even older snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering. In its more deeply embedded layers, the snowpack is favourably structured by and large. The deep snowpack tends to insulate the ground. Full depth avalanches continue to be possible in isolated cases.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday night, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated from the Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein and in Grisons. During the day on Friday, it will remain overcast in northern regions below approximately 2000 m. Above that altitude, it will turn increasingly sunny from the west. In the Valais and in southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will descend to minus 19 degrees. The northeasterly wind will be blowing at strong to storm velocity at high altitudes. At intermediate altitudes, it will also be blowing at strong to storm velocity in some parts of the western Prealps and Ticino, elsewhere at moderate velocity. Snowdrift accumulations are expected to form which will be prone to triggering.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps; northern Valais; Trient; Great St. Bernard; Upper Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects. In Chablais, the Vaud Alps and the western Prealps, the danger zones are above approximately 1800 m, elsewhere above approximately 2200 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are often relatively small sized, but can be easily triggered. In isolated cases, they can even be naturally triggered. They should be circumvented whenever possible. Whumpfung sounds and shooting cracks can be indicators of imminent avalanche danger. Wherever the wind has exercised no influence recently, the situation is significantly more favourable. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, experience in evaluating avalanche dangers and a cautious route selection are imperative.

Southern Lower Valais not including Trient and not including Grand St. Bernard; in addition, central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects. In central Ticino and in Sotto Ceneri, the danger zones are above approximately 1800 m; in the indicated regions of the Lower Valais they are above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places. They have often been deposited in places where the slope gradient changes abruptly, or in gullies and bowls, and for the most part are easily discernible for those with experience. The snowdrift accumulations should be circumvented whenever possible in very steep terrain in particular, primarily through well chosen route planning. 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 Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday it will be overcast in southern regions; elsewhere in the Swiss Alps, it will be quite sunny on both days. It will also be cold on both days, accompanied by moderate to strong northeasterly winds. The avalanche danger will not change significantly. Snowdrift remains the major peril. Full depth snowslides will continue to be possible.

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**Regional avalanche bulletins** (Fr. 0.50/MMS)  
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LAWBEO Bernese Oberland  
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# Avalanche danger forecast

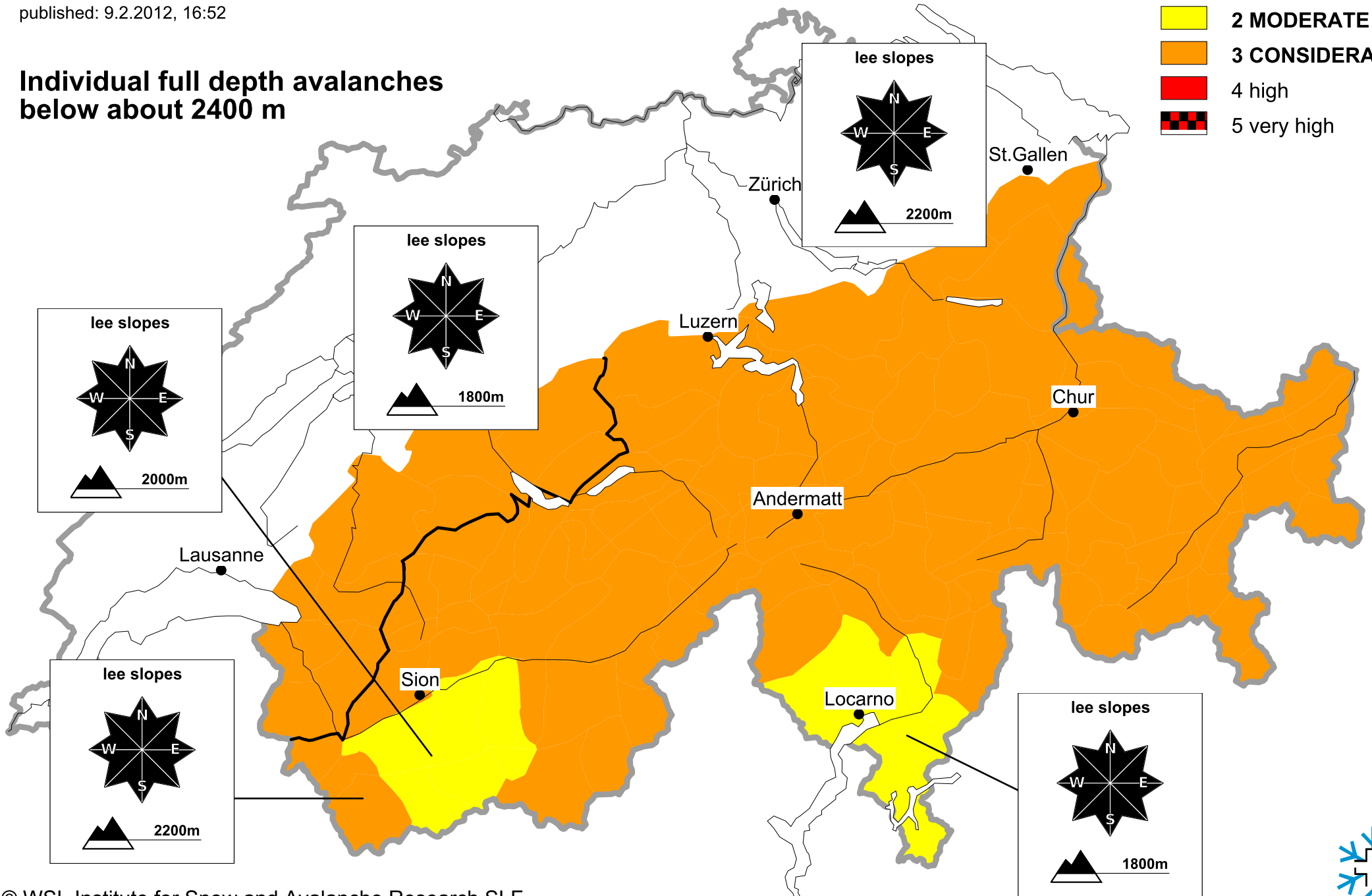
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## Individual full depth avalanches below about 2400 m

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 10. February 2012

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Danger level

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

