

## National avalanche bulletin no. 84

for Friday, 17 February 2012

issue date 16.2.2012, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable avalanche danger - very treacherous avalanche situation widespread*

#### Current conditions

On Thursday it was overcast on the northern flank of the Alps; towards the south there were increasingly frequent bright intervals. On the southern flank of the Alps it was sunny. Since Tuesday on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, there has been 30 to 50 cm of snowfall widespread; in the Glarner and St. Gallen Alps as well as in Prättigau, as much as 80 cm of new fallen snow. In the Lower Valais, in northern Valais, in the Gotthard region, in central Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, there has been 10 to 30 cm of snowfall; further to the south, less. The heaviest snowfall occurred between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning. The Thursday midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 8 degrees in northern regions and minus 3 degrees in southern regions. The wind was blowing at moderate velocity widespread; in the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge winds were strong. Both fresh fallen and old snow were intensely transported over the last two days.

Fresh fallen and drifted snow have been deposited atop a snowpack surface which is either hard and heavily impacted by winds or on top of an old snowpack which is faceted and, in some places, loosely packed. Particularly in the zone near the treeline or at intermediate and high altitudes of the inneralpine regions widespread, the new fallen snow and snowdrift can be very easily triggered.

Wherever the snowpack is deep, its lowermost layers are generally solid and stable. In the case of a deep snowpack, the ground tends to remain insulated. Full depth snowslides continue to be possible in isolated cases.

#### Short-term development

On Friday it will be predominantly sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 5 degrees in northern regions and minus 2 degrees in southern regions. The wind will be blowing at light to moderate velocity from northerly directions.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons; Jura:

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

On the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren as well as in the Jura, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1400 m. In western Lower Valais, in northern Valais, in Goms, in Urseren, in northern Ticino, in northern and central Grisons, in the Lower Engadine and in Müntertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Avalanches can be easily triggered by backcountry skiers or freeriders. Remote triggerings, well outside the starting zone, can be expected. Naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, the avalanche situation is very delicate and very treacherous. A great deal of experience in evaluating avalanche dangers and restraint are imperative.

In southern Valais between Val d'Hérens and the Simplon region as well as in the Upper Engadine, in Val Calanca, in Val Moesa, in Bergell and in Puschlav, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places and should be circumvented. Extensive experience in assessing avalanche hazards and a high degree of caution are essential in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs.

Central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

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

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Particularly the snowdrift accumulations which have formed in the last few days should be evaluated with great care.

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. In addition, glide cracks in the regions which have recently had the heaviest snowfall may be blanketed over with fresh fallen snow, thus making them difficult to see.

#### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday it will be generally sunny. On Sunday, cloud will move in from the northwest and it will begin to snow lightly. The avalanche danger will decrease only gradually.

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Send an SMS with the corresponding key word to the speed dial number 162.  
LAWINE overview of the keywords  
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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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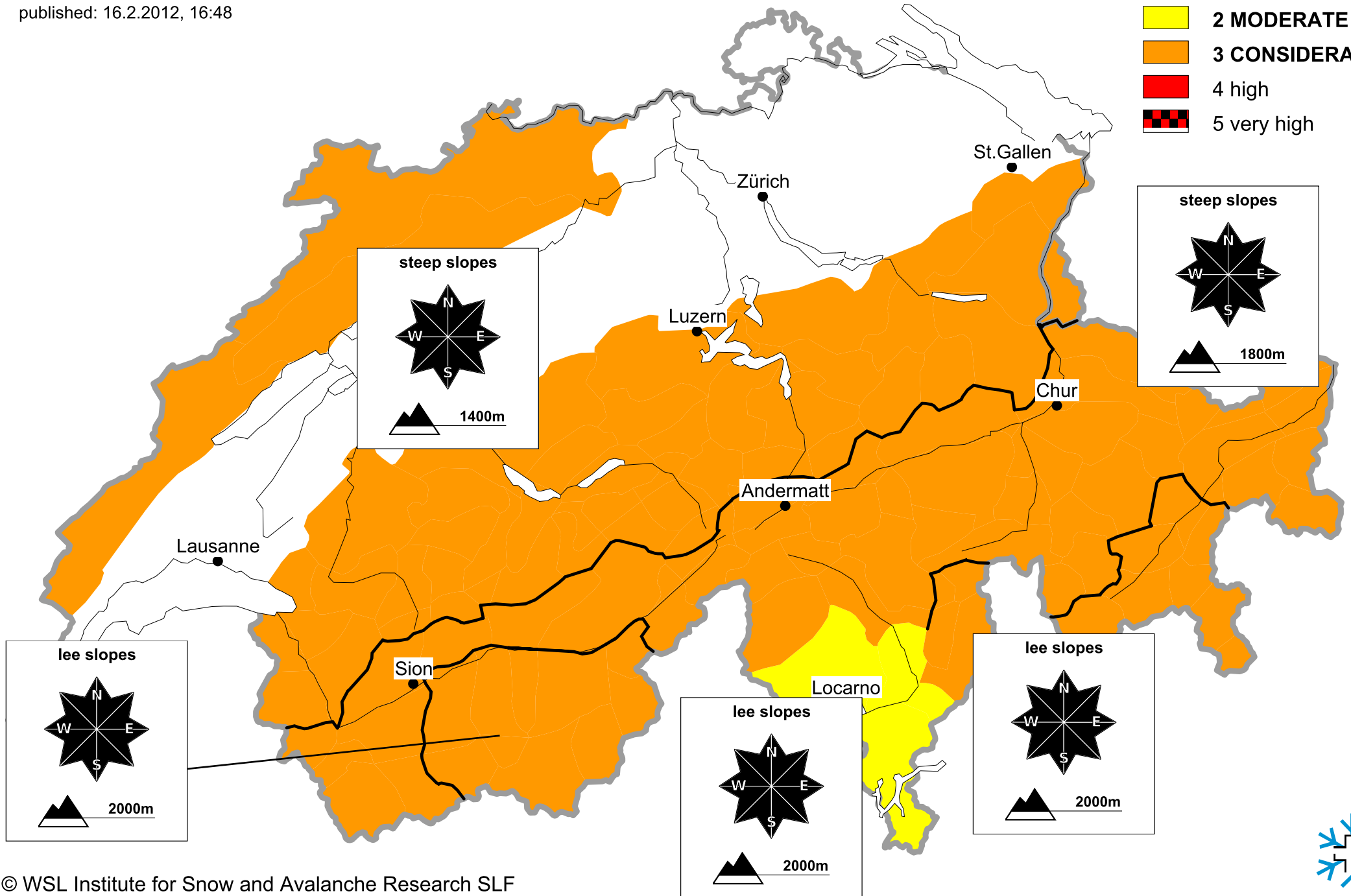
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 17. February 2012

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Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 17. February 2012

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Danger level

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

