

National avalanche bulletin no. 90

for Thursday, 23 February 2012

issue date 22.2.2012, 18:30 hours

Moderate avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 1 degree. The wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity from the northeast.

In the uppermost layers of the snowpack, the snow layering is unfavourable in some places of Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons more than anywhere else. The likelihood of avalanches triggering has diminished somewhat, but avalanches have still been triggered by backcountry skiers and freeriders in isolated cases. The avalanche prone locations are generally difficult to recognize. They are more prevalent in relatively unfrequented backcountry terrain than in much used off-piste terrain. Steep, south facing slopes at high altitude are moist on the surface.

Short-term development

On Wednesday night in northern regions, clouds will move in. During the day on Thursday it will be partly sunny only in the Valais and in southern regions. During the afternoon in northeastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is expected above approximately 2000 m. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be plus 1 degree. The wind will be blowing at moderate velocity, in high alpine regions at strong velocity, from northerly directions.

In areas adjacent to ridgelines and pass areas, more than anywhere else, small sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

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

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In all regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in southwestern to northern to southeastern aspects.

In the Prealps, in the central part of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren as well as in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, the danger zones are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 1600 m. In the Valais not including the regions of Zermatt, Saas Fee and Simplon, in addition in Urseren, in northern and central Grisons, in the Engadine and in the Münstertal, they are found on steep slopes above approximately 1800 m. The major peril stems from older snowdrift accumulations which have generally been blanketed over by last week's snowfall. These avalanche prone locations are discernible only with difficulty. Avalanches can still be triggered by a single backcountry skier or freerider in isolated cases. A cautious route selection, as well as maintaining distances between persons when ascending the mountainside, and descending singly are important.

In the regions of Zermatt, Saas Fee and Simplon, as well as in northern Ticino, Val Calanca, Val Moesa, Bergell and Puschlav, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in gullies and bowls above approximately 2000 m.

Particularly in transition areas into gullies and bowls where the snow is relatively shallow, great care should be exercised in assessing the situation.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

In all regions, moist sluffs are possible below about 2000 m. Furthermore, the frequency of full depth snowslides is again on the increase, particularly in northern regions and in the Valais. This is particularly the case on west, south and east facing slopes below about 2400 m; on north facing slopes, below about 2000 m. Caution is urged below glide cracks.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Thursday night in northern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated above approximately 2000 m. Thereafter it will be predominantly sunny on both days and very mild on Friday in particular. The danger of dry avalanches is expected to gradually decrease. The danger of moist avalanches will increase during the course of each day, escalating noticeably on Friday in particular.

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.90/call and min)

Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch

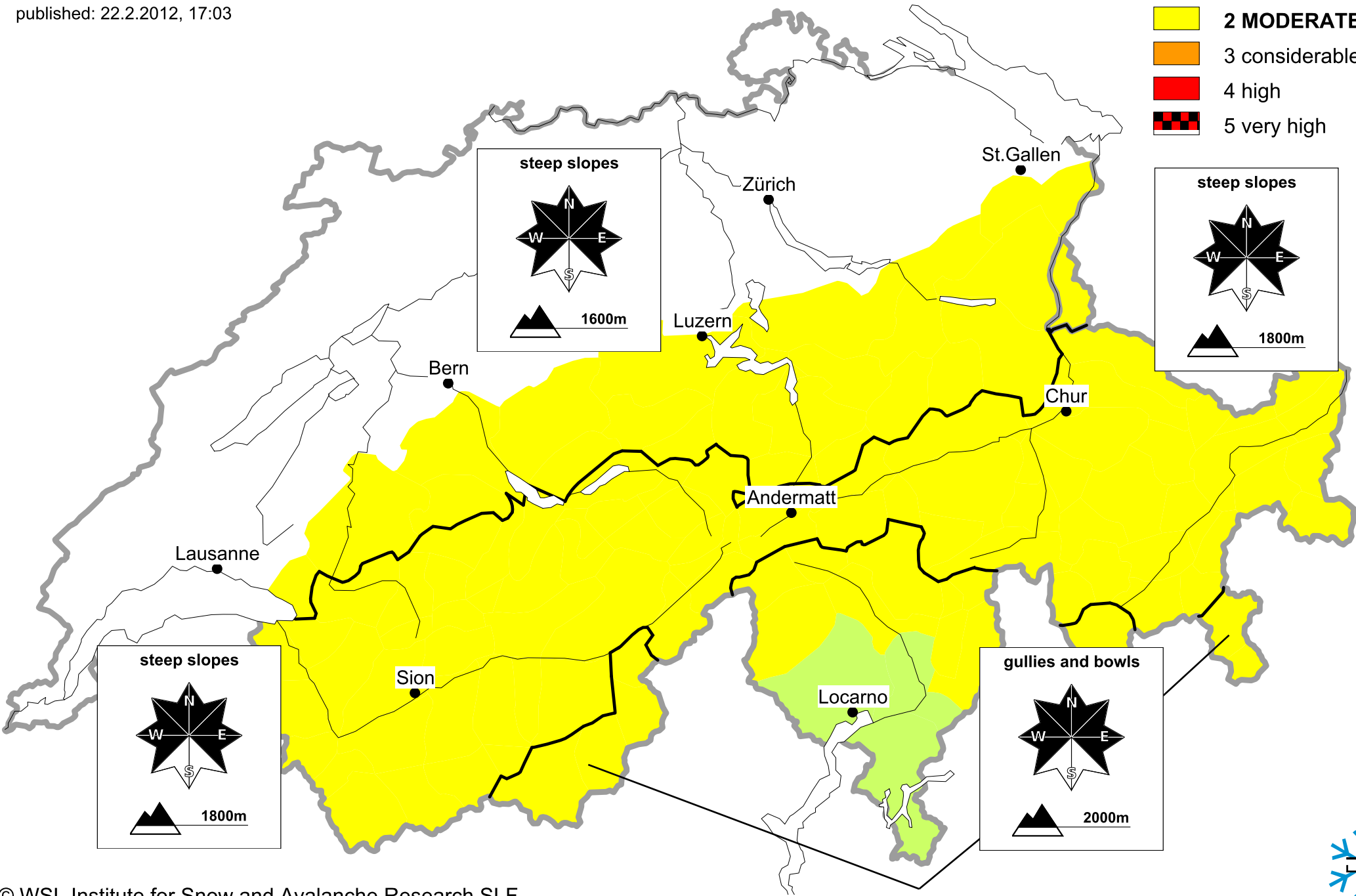
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 23. February 2012

published: 22.2.2012, 17:03

- Danger level
- 1 LOW
 - 2 MODERATE
 - 3 considerable
 - 4 high
 - 5 very high



Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 23. February 2012

published: 23.2.2012, 08:03

Full-depth avalanches below about 2400 m

- Danger level
- 1 LOW
 - 2 MODERATE
 - 3 considerable
 - 4 high
 - 5 very high

