

National avalanche bulletin no. 96

for Wednesday, 29 February 2012

issue date 28.2.2012, 18:30 hours

Danger of wet snow avalanches during the day

Current conditions

On Tuesday, the weather was cloudy in the east, especially in the afternoon, but mostly sunny elsewhere. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 2 degrees in the east and plus 4 degrees in the south. The northerly wind was mostly moderate in the east and light in the west.

In Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons in particular, unfavourable layers still exist near the surface of the snowpack in some places. Below and close to the tree line in particular, such areas are more prevalent than they are at high altitude. Below approximately 2000 m, but below approximately 1600 m on north facing slopes, the snowpack is wet all the way through. At high altitudes, the surface of the snowpack is moist on east, south and west facing slopes in particular.

Short-term development

Tuesday night will be partly cloudy in the east, but clear elsewhere. During the day, the weather will be mostly sunny in all regions. Air temperatures will already rise significantly during the night, and at midday at 2000 m will reach plus 8 degrees in the west and south, and plus 4 degrees in the east. The wind will be moderate to strong from the northeast.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps excluding the western Prealps; Valais excluding both Saas Fee and the southern Simplon region; northern and central Grisons; Engadine; Münstertal:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. In some places, avalanches can be released in near-surface layers of the snowpack, in particular by large additional loads. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to recognise. The significant warming will slightly increase the likelihood of avalanches being released. On very steep slopes, snow sport participants are to engage in activities with caution and one at a time.

Western Prealps; Saas Fee; southern Simplon region; Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; Bergell; Puschlav:

Low danger of dry avalanches (level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are still to be found in extremely steep terrain in particular. The danger of falling warrants caution.

The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase in all regions under the influence of solar radiation and warming. The danger will increase to considerable (level 3) on the northern flank of the Alps, in Valais, excluding both Saas Fee and the southern Simplon region, and in northern and central Grisons and Engadine, and to moderate (level 2) in the other regions. Natural wet snow avalanches are to be expected on east, south and west facing steep slopes below approximately 2600 m, and on north facing steep slopes below approximately 2000 m. Wet snow slides can be released at intermediate altitudes, including in forests and on steep escarpments. They can endanger transportation routes.

In addition, full-depth avalanches are to be expected at any time below approximately 2600 m. These can reach medium size and endanger exposed transportation routes. Caution is to be exercised in areas below glide cracks.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On each of the next two days, the weather will be sunny and exceptionally mild for the time of year. In the short term, the zero degree level will be 3500 m. The wet snow and full-depth avalanche activity will increase. The danger of wet snow avalanches will vary during the day, and full-depth avalanches can occur at any time.

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)

Weather Information in collaboration with **MeteoSwiss**

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:

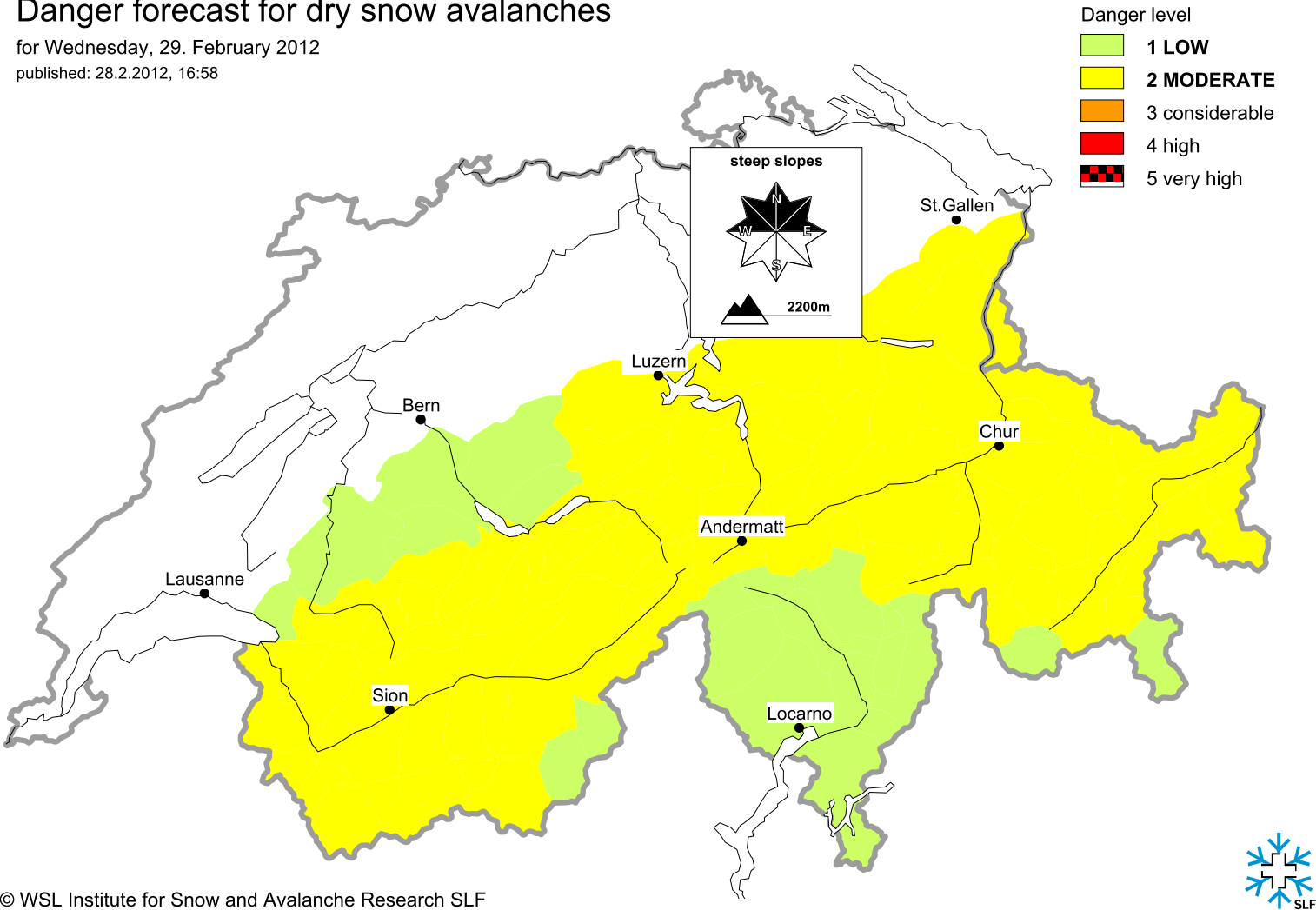
Email: lwp@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Wednesday, 29. February 2012

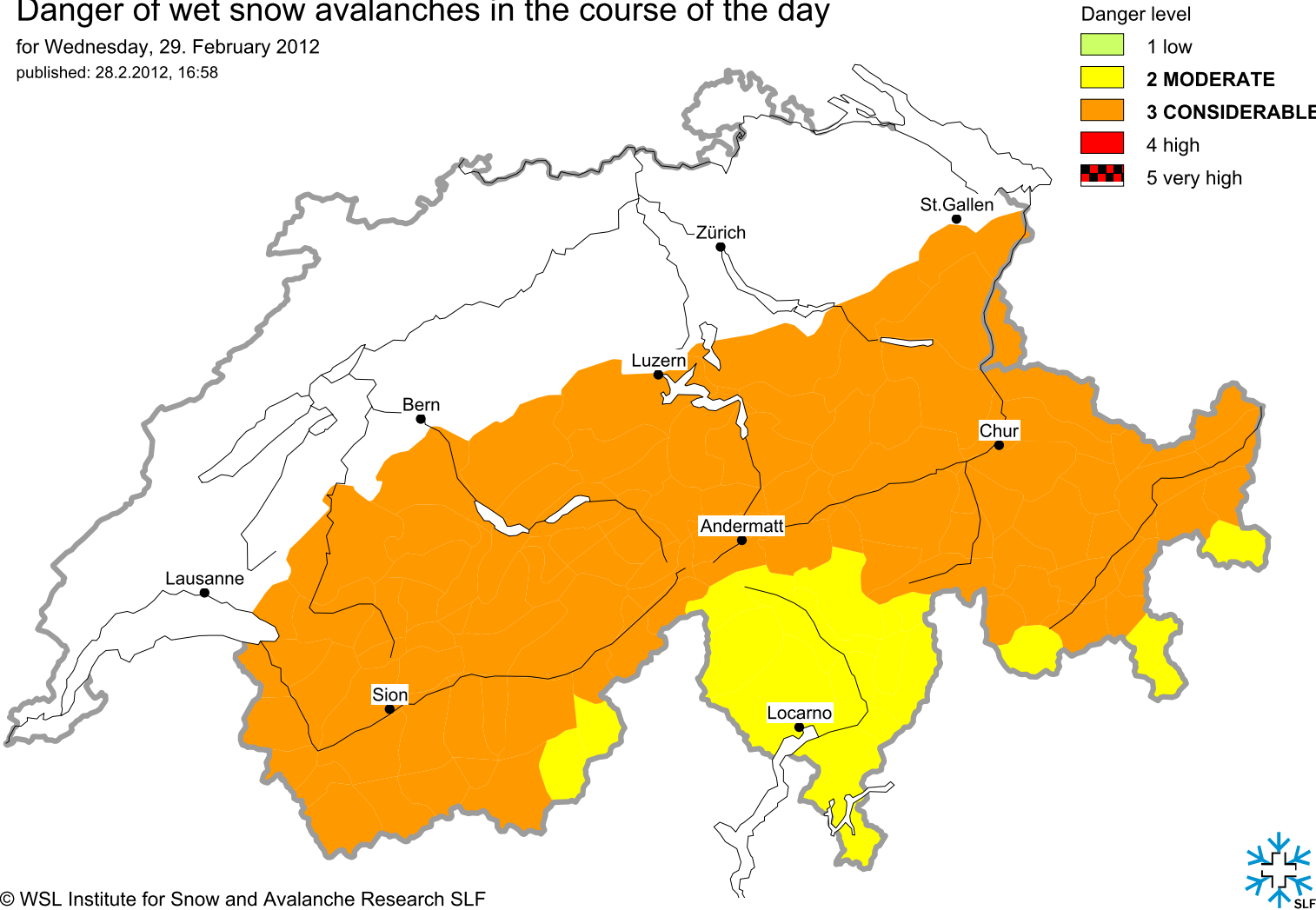
published: 28.2.2012, 16:58



Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Wednesday, 29. February 2012

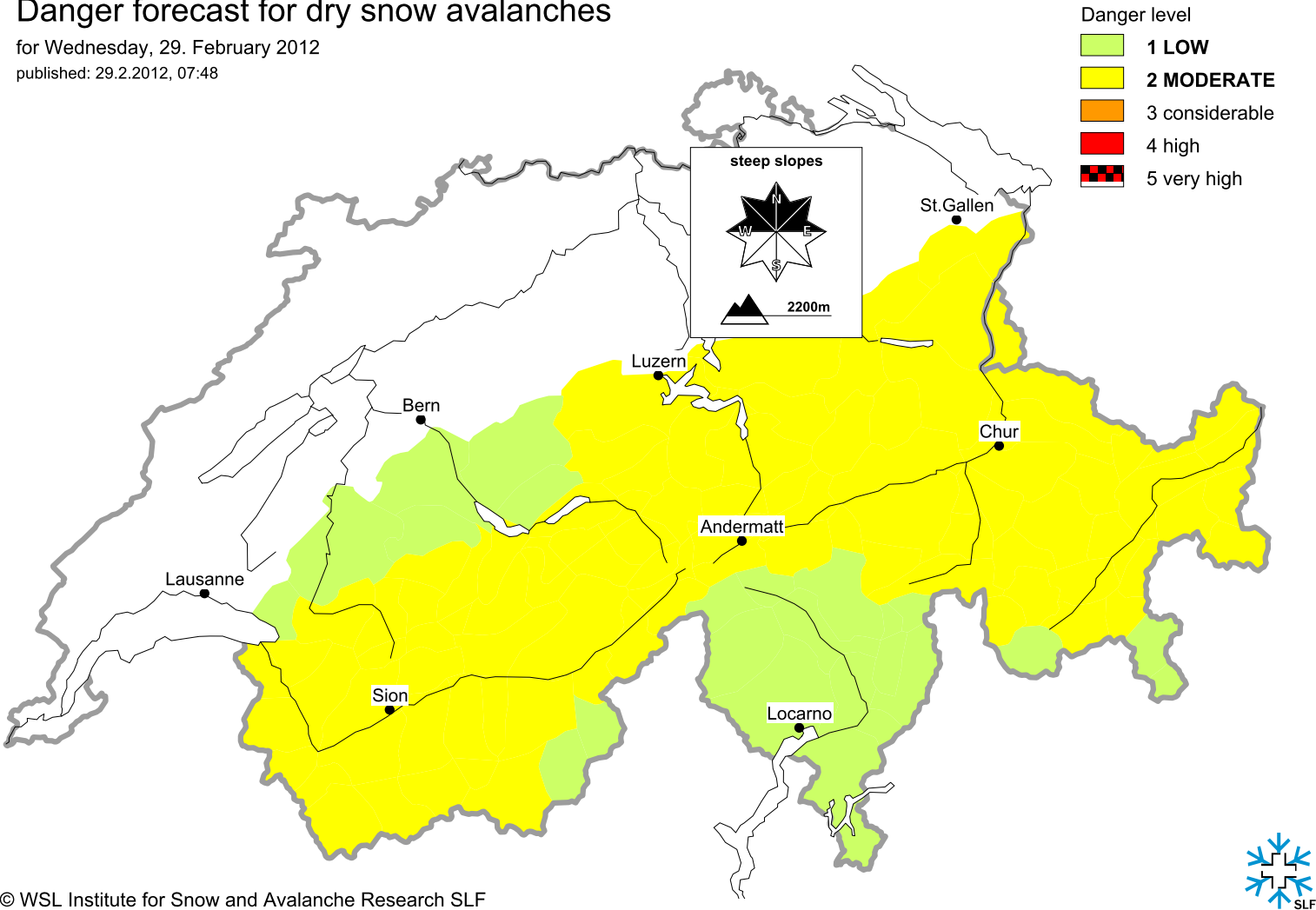
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Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

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