Eidgenössisches Institut für Schnee- und Lawinenforschung
Institut Fédéral pour l'Etude de la Neige et des Avalanches
Istituto Federale per lo Studio della Neve e delle Valanghe
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SLF
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National avalanche bulletin no. 125

from Sunday, 1 April 2007, 18:30 hours

Slightly increased danger of wet avalanches during the day

Current conditions

On Saturday night along the southern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Engadine, a few centimetres of snow fell. During the day on Sunday north of the main Alpine ridge it was generally sunny, along the southern flank of the Alps, overcast. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 3 degrees in northern regions, minus 2 degrees in southern regions. Light to moderate southeasterly winds prevailed.
From Friday to Sunday on the main Alpine ridge and south thereof as well as in the Lower Engadine, 5 - to 20 cm of snow fell. Driven by moderate southerly winds, in areas adjacent to the ridge line fresh, smaller snowdrift accumulations have gathered in places. In addition, primarily on north facing slopes, there are still weak layers near to the surface of the snowpack which can fracture especially under high additional loading. Particularly in inneralpine regions, furthermore, the snowpack fundament is often weak, which can lead to greater fracture depths of avalanches.

Short-term development

Along the southern flank of the Alps it will remain heavily overcast on Monday as well and along the main Alpine ridge above approximately 1500 m a few centimetres of snow will fall. In the remaining regions it will be predominantly sunny. The prevailing light winds will shift from south to northwest in the course of the day. The midday temperature at 2000 m in western regions is plus 4 degrees, in eastern regions plus 2 degrees, and in southern regions zero degrees.
During the day, primarily in the western regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet avalanches will increase.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Northern main Alpine ridge; Valais; Ticino and Grisons:

Moderate Avalanche Danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes. In the Lower Engadine the avalanche prone locations are above approximately 2400 m, elsewhere above approximately 2200 m. In areas adjacent to the ridge line and pass areas special caution must be exercised towards the fresh, small, yet for the most part easily triggered snowdrift accumulations. Particularly very steep, north facing slopes should be skied singly and distances between persons be maintained when treading across them. Careful route selection is important.

Northern Prealpes and the remaining western part of the northern flank of the Alps:

Low Avalanche Danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are primarily on extremely steep north facing slopes. Releasing an avalanche through high additional loading is still possible in those places.

Particularly in the western regions north of the main Alpine ridge below about 2600 m on very steep south facing slopes moist snow slides and avalanches will become increasingly possible during the course of the day .

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday in northern regions it will turn increasingly cloudy during the day and regionally there will be a few snow showers. On Wednesday it will be predominantly overcast and additional small amounts of snow may fall. The avalanche danger will not change significantly, although it is subject to an augmenting curve in the course of the day.

Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min.)

0900 59 2020	List of fax aids SLF
0900 59 2025	Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)
0900 59 2026	New Snow Map daily
0900 162 338	Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss (CHF 2./min.)

Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss

Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min.)

0900 59 20 31	Central Switzerland
0900 59 20 32	Lower Valais / VD
0900 59 20 33	Upper Valais
0900 59 20 34	North and Central Grisons
0900 59 20 35	South Grisons
0900 59 20 36	Bernese Oberland
0900 59 20 37	Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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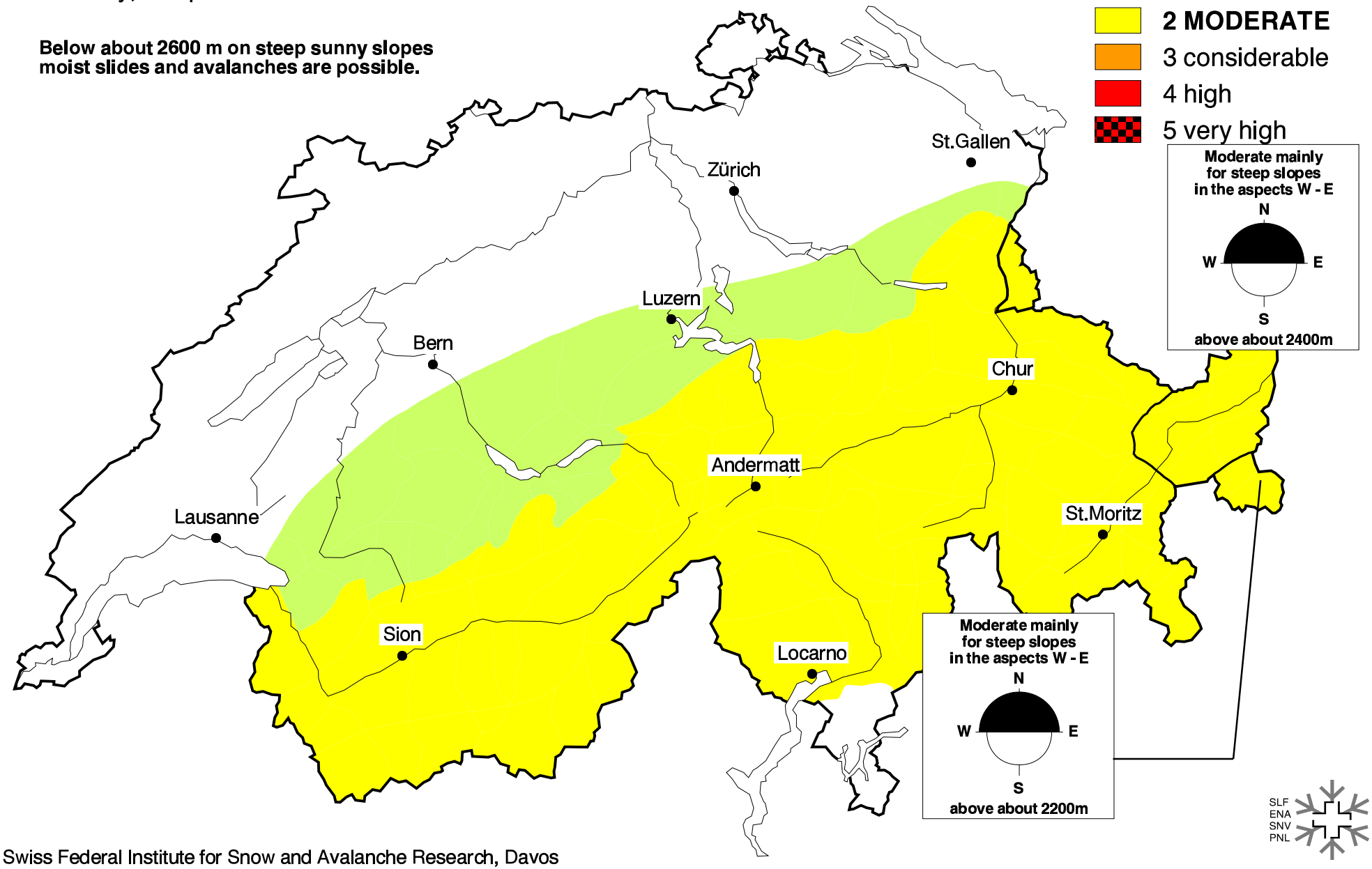
Avalanche danger forecast

Monday, 2. April 2007

Below about 2600 m on steep sunny slopes moist slides and avalanches are possible.



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