

National avalanche bulletin no. 145

from Saturday, 21 April 2007, 18:30 hours

Favourable conditions in the morning - wet avalanche danger during the day

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny with only a few cumulonimbus clouds forming during the afternoon. Light winds from varying directions prevailed. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 7 degrees. In flat terrain at 2500 m on the northern Alpine ridge, in the western regions of Lower Valais, in Goms and in Bedrettal, there is generally still more than 120 cm of snow. In the remaining Valais, in the western regions of northern Ticino and in northern Grisons, there is still 80 to 120 cm. In the remaining Ticino, in central and southern Grisons, the snow depth is just 50 to 80 cm, in certain areas even less. The snowpack is thoroughly moistened up to about 2600 m. On north facing slopes above 1600 to 2000 m there is still a cohesive snowpack. On south facing slopes, the snow line is 2000 to 2400 m, and even higher in some regions, particularly on the southern flank of the Alps, in the southern Vispertäler and in the Upper Engadine.

Short-term development

On Sunday, following a clear night it will be sunny once again. During the afternoon, cumulonimbus clouds will build up. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be plus 9 degrees. Light westerly winds will prevail. During the night, particularly in higher altitude zones, a melt freeze crust capable of bearing loads will form on the snowpack surface. The avalanche situation will be favourable in the early morning hours. In the course of the day the danger of wet avalanches will rise.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Low Danger of Dry Avalanches (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are primarily on extremely steep north facing slopes. Among other factors, the hazards of being swept along and falling should be heeded.

Through the radiation the danger of wet avalanches will increase, to begin with on east facing slopes, later in the course of the day also in other aspects below about 3000 m. The danger will reach the level "moderate" in all regions. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons, due to the weak snow layering, isolated wet avalanches can attain medium size. On steep sunny slopes moist snow slides can be released even in high altitude zones. The current conditions are comparable with the conditions in mid-May of other years. Backcountry touring and freeriding activities should be completed early.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On both days it will be inordinately sunny with increasing buildup of cumulonimbus clouds during the afternoon and low tendency of showers. It will remain mild. Light winds will prevail. The avalanche situation will not change. The avalanche danger remains subject to a daytime warming cycle.

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

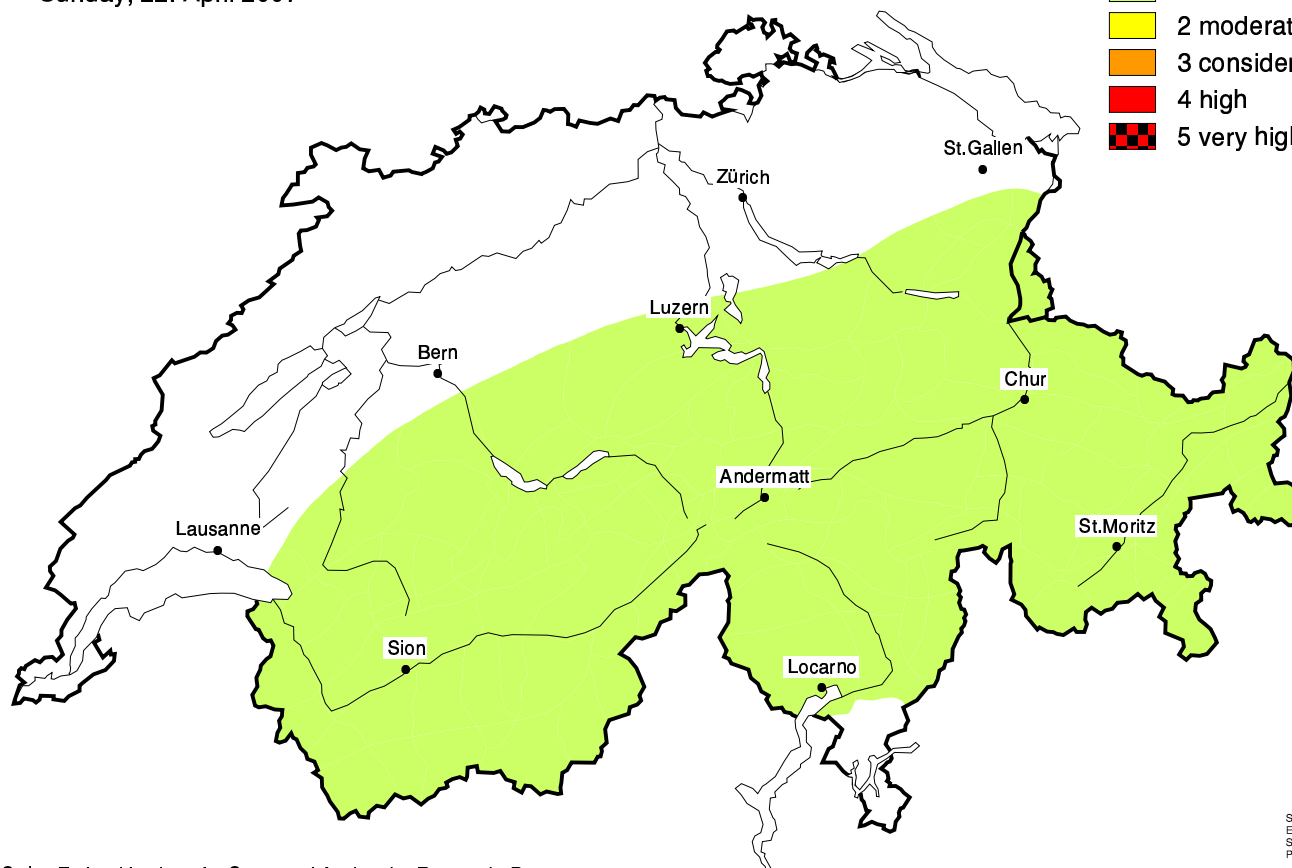
Feedback information:
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Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

Sunday, 22. April 2007

Danger level

- 1 LOW
- 2 moderate
- 3 considerable
- 4 high
- 5 very high



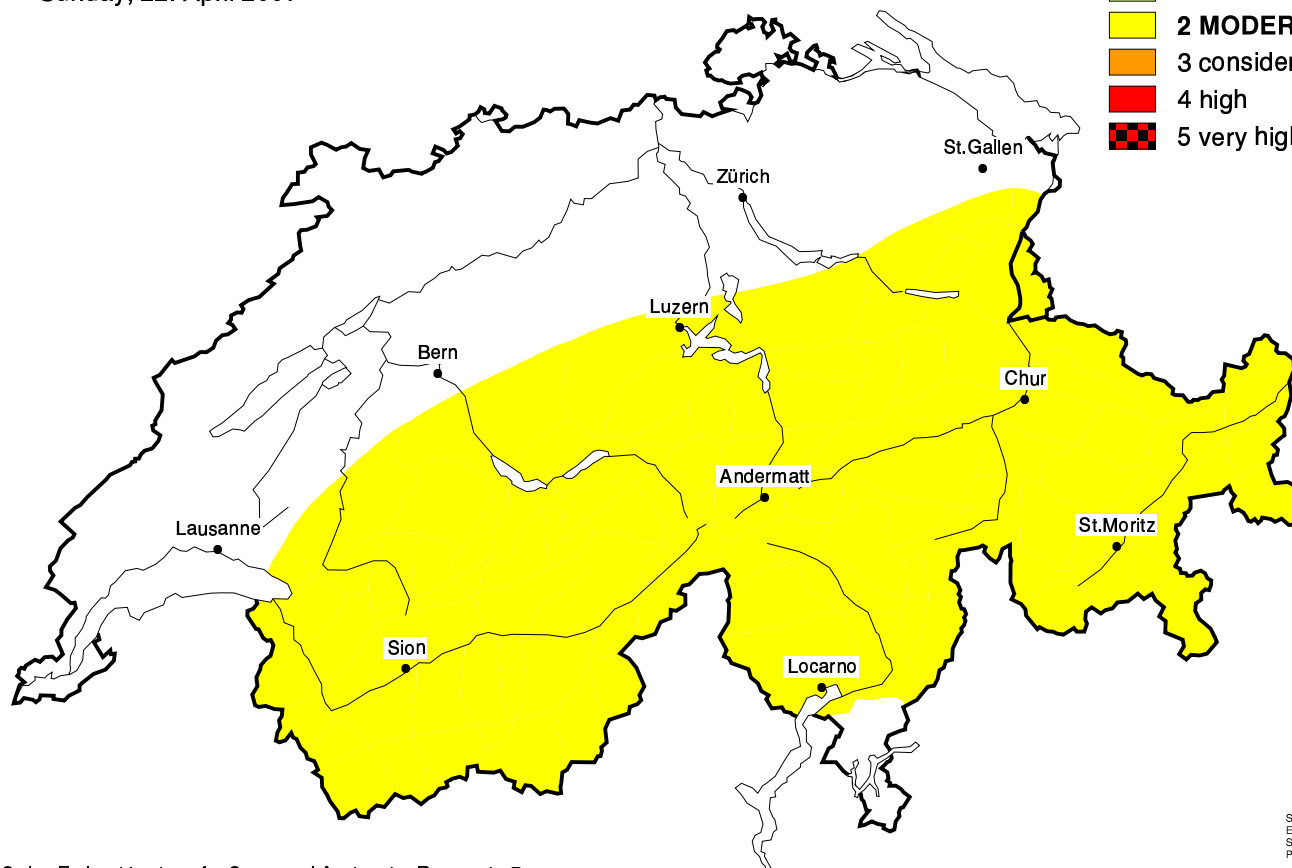
Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research, Davos

Danger for wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

Sunday, 22. April 2007

Danger level

- 1 low
- 2 MODERATE
- 3 considerable
- 4 high
- 5 very high



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