

National avalanche bulletin no. 128

for Saturday, 15 March 2008

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Beware danger of dry and wet avalanches

Current conditions

By Friday morning on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons above approximately 1500 m, up to 10 cm of snow fell. During the day, the clouds dispersed somewhat and it turned increasingly sunny, particularly at high altitudes. In southern regions it was sunny. Moderate westerly winds prevailed. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 1 degree in northern regions, plus 4 degrees in southern regions.

The various snowdrift layers of this week and the old snowpack are still insufficiently bonded with each other in places. On shady slopes of the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture down to the weak old snowpack. Below about 2000 m the snowpack beneath the new fallen snow is moist.

Short-term development

After a generally clear night, high clouds will initially move in from the southwest on Saturday morning, followed by denser clouds later in the day. Moderate westerly to southwesterly winds will prevail. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will rise to plus 6 degrees in northern regions and drop slightly to plus 1 degree in southern regions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to the Simplon Pass; northern Grisons not including Flims -

Untervaz; in addition, Lower Engadine:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes above approximately 2400 m. In the indicated areas of the Valais, they are found on west to north to east facing slopes in particular, in the indicated areas of Grisons on west to north to south facing slopes in particular. Avalanches can be triggered even by minimum additional loading, including by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Both the assessment of the avalanche situation and the selection of a route require experience.

Remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are found on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. In the western Prealps as well as in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, they are found on west to north to east facing slopes in particular, in the remaining regions in all aspects. Avalanches can be triggered primarily by large additional loading. Prudent route selection is recommended.

Through the daytime warming, on sunny slopes below about 2600 m and on shady slopes below about 2000 m, moist sluffs and avalanches can be expected. Excluding in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the danger level 3, Considerable, will be reached in the course of the day.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Saturday night snowfall is expected throughout the Swiss Alps. Thereafter it will turn increasingly sunny in southern regions. Elsewhere it will remain heavily overcast far and wide on both days, with bright spots particularly in central Valais. The snowfall level will drop to about 1000 m on Monday. Strong westerly winds will prevail on Sunday, then shift to northerly. The danger of wet avalanches will swiftly recede. The danger of dry avalanches, on the other hand, will increase in western and northern regions.

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

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 (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

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

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

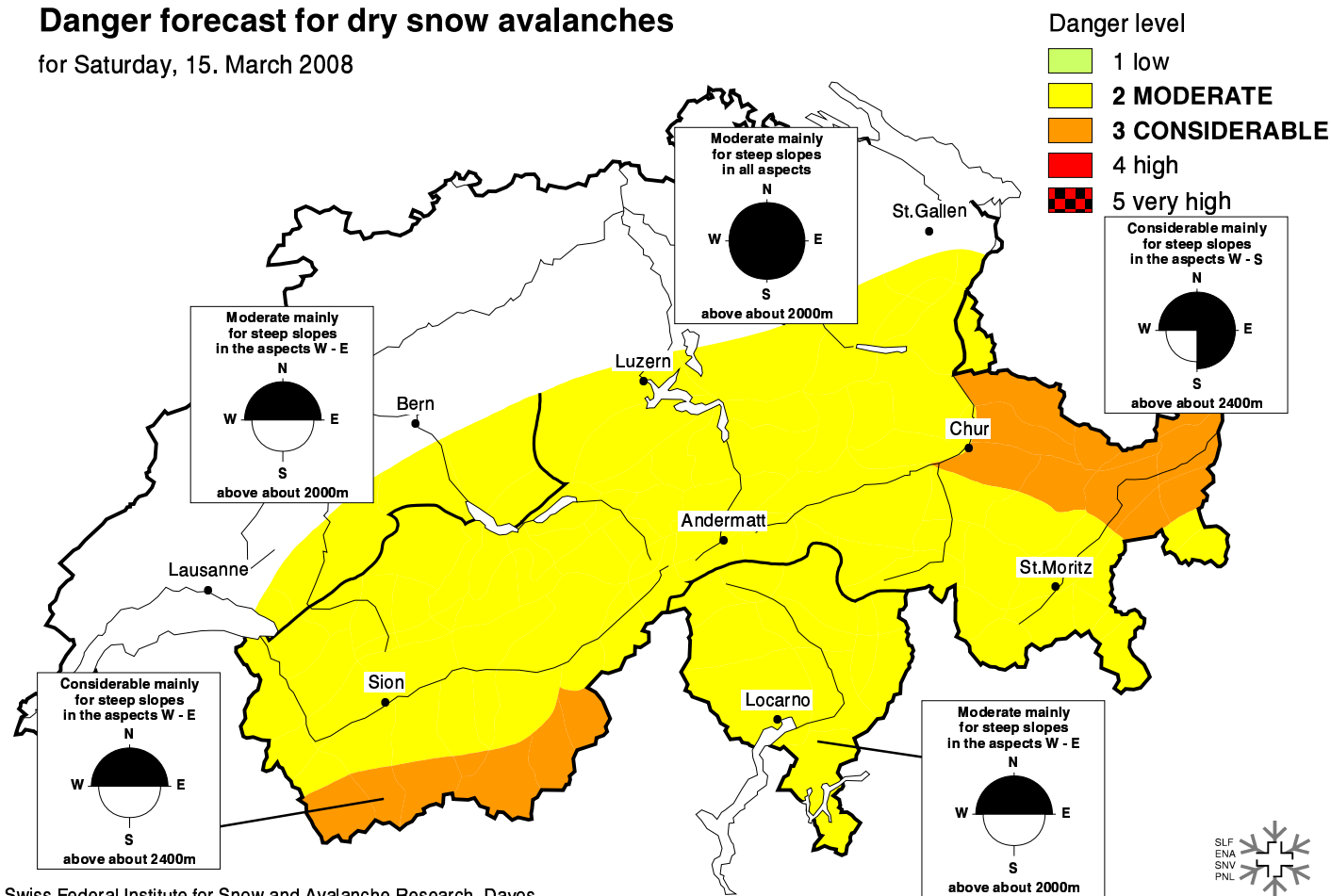
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Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 15. March 2008



Danger for wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

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