

National avalanche bulletin no. 143

for Sunday, 30 March 2008

issue date 29.3.2008, 18:30 hours

Caution towards fresh snowdrift and daytime warming curve

Current conditions

On Friday night it was predominantly overcast and a few centimeters of snow fell on the northern flank of the Alps. On Saturday it was generally sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 3 degrees in northern regions and plus 2 degrees in southern regions. Light to moderate westerly winds prevailed.

The snow depths correspond to long term average amounts widespread. North of the Rhone-Rhine line above approximately 600 to 1000 m there is an area wide snowpack, south thereof above approximately 1200 to 1800 m. In Ticino and in the Engadine on south facing slopes above approximately 2000 m there is an area wide snowpack.

Widespread the snow surface is moist up to high altitudes. Only on north facing slopes is there still loosely packed snow in places. The snow layering is generally favourable, except in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons. In those places the snowpack is only moderately well consolidated, particularly on north facing slopes above the treeline, and avalanches can fracture down to the layers of the old snowpack, in some places even down to the ground.

Short-term development

On Sunday a foehn weather front will sweep over the Swiss Alps. In northern regions it will be very mild and sunny. In southern regions it will be generally overcast. In the course of the day in the Valais, heavy clouds will move in. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between plus 5 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. Winds will shift to southwesterly and be quite strong.

During the day increasingly trigger-sensitive snowdrift accumulations will form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps not including central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

On the northern flank of the Alps the avalanche prone locations are to be found on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2000 m in particular. In the Valais, in northern Ticino and in Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are found on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular.

The snowdrift accumulations will increase in size and frequency during the day and can be triggered by even low additional loading. They are easy to recognize and should be avoided. Releasing a slab avalanche in the old snowpack is possible primarily through large additional loading. Particularly transitions from shallow snow to areas with lots of snow should be traversed singly. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can fracture down to the ground.

Central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations can be found in extremely steep terrain.

In all regions the hazards of wet avalanches will increase in the course of the day. On the northern flank of the Alps the danger level 3, Considerable, will be reached during the afternoon. Wet snowslides and on steep, sun-flooded slopes below about 2500 m, even wet avalanches can be expected. In isolated cases, exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will be predominantly overcast. In western and southern regions above approximately 1500 m, snowfall is expected. On Tuesday it will brighten up from the west and south. The avalanche danger will increase regionally in western and southern 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)

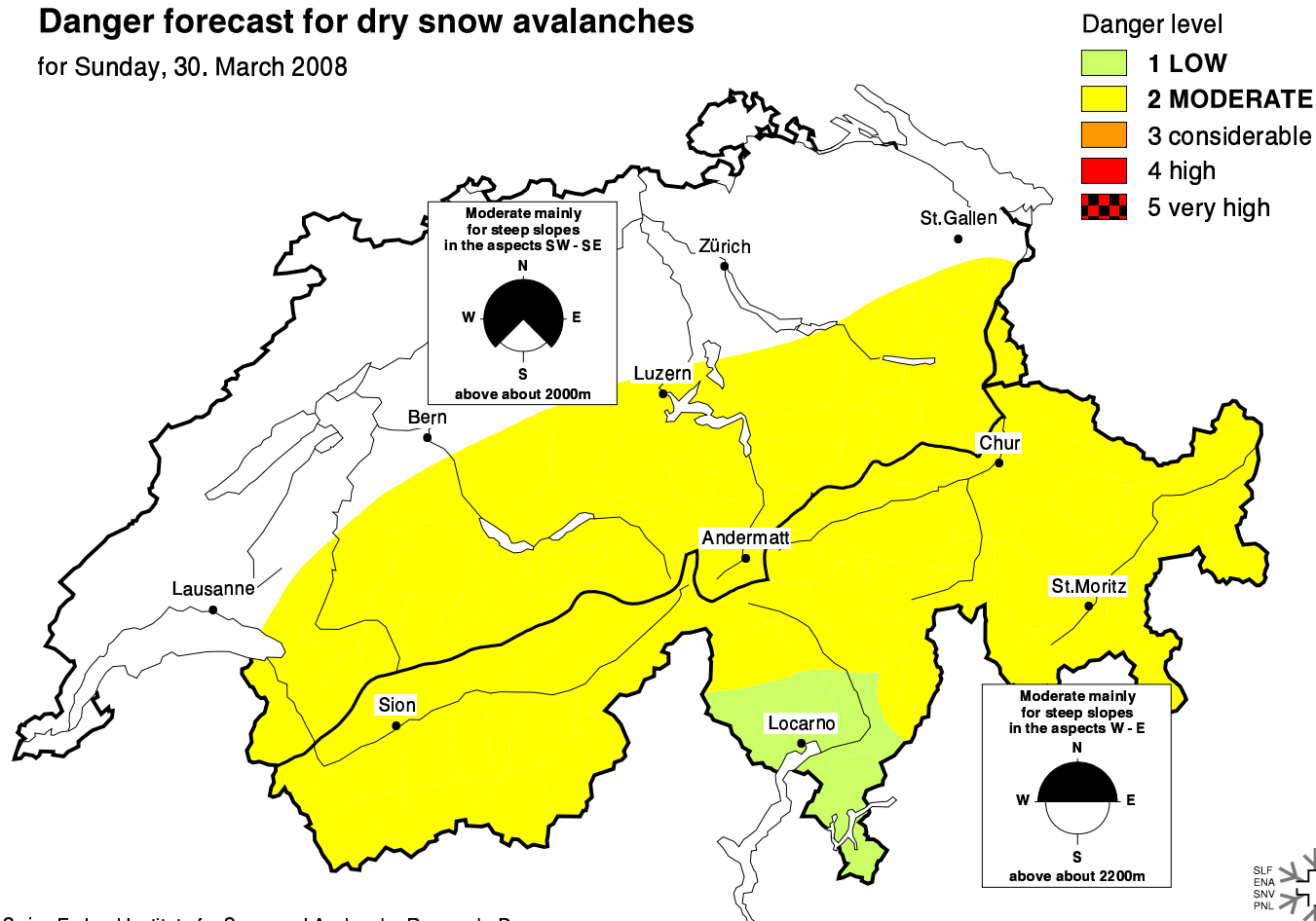
Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Sunday, 30. March 2008



Danger for wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Sunday, 30. March 2008

