

National avalanche bulletin no. 158

for Saturday, 11 April 2009

issue date 10.4.2009, 18:30 hours

Reduced nocturnal outgoing longwave radiation in western and especially in southern regions

Current conditions

On Good Friday it was predominantly sunny in northern regions, amidst convective cloud during the afternoon. Along the Main Alpine Ridge, clouds moved in from the south. In southern regions it was overcast. Particularly in Monte Rosa, in the Simplon region and in Goms, there were scattered showers. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between plus 7 degrees in northern regions and plus 2 degrees in southeastern regions. A moderate southerly to southeasterly wind was blowing. Steep, south facing slopes below about 2400 m have been partially discharged. The avalanche activity is shifting increasingly frequently to east and west facing slopes, as well as to high alpine regions, where fracturing down to the weak, lowermost layers of the snowpack continues to be possible. The snowline on north facing slopes in the Valais and in southern Grisons is at approximately 1400 m, in the remaining regions at approximately 1000 m. On south facing slopes, the snowline is about 400 m higher.

Short-term development

On Friday night it will be generally clear in northeastern regions. In western regions and in southern Grisons, it will be partly cloudy. Along the Main Alpine Ridge of the Valais as well as in Ticino it will be overcast and nocturnal outgoing longwave radiation will be poor. During the day on Holy Saturday it is expected to be quite sunny in northern regions. On the Main Alpine Ridge and south thereof, it will be heavily overcast. From Monte Rosa over the Simplon region into western Ticino above approximately 2500 m, about 10 cm of new snow is anticipated. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 3 degrees in southern regions and plus 6 degrees in northern regions. Moderate to strong southerly winds are expected to prevail.

Avalanche danger forecast for Holy Saturday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Low avalanche danger for dry avalanches (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in extremely steep terrain. Slab avalanches are most likely to be triggered in spots with shallow snow, where they can fracture down to the lowermost layers of the snowpack. Freshly formed, very small sized snowdrift accumulations, particularly in high alpine regions, will combine with new fallen snow. If triggered, they can cause one to fall.

Along the Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard into Rheinwald and south thereof, moderate danger of wet snow avalanches (Level 2) prevails even from the early morning hours. In the remaining regions, the hazards of wet snow avalanches are low in the morning (Level 1). Over the course of the day, the danger will surge to danger level 3, "considerable" widespread; south of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge, the danger will remain at level 2, "moderate". Small and medium sized natural avalanches can be expected, in isolated cases also large sized ones are possible. The avalanche prone locations are to be found on east, south and west facing slopes below about 2600 m, on north facing slopes below about 2200 m.

Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours as well as ascents to huts should be brought to a close early in the day. In those regions with poor outgoing longwave radiation during the night, great caution is urged even in the morning hours towards very steep slopes below about 2000 m. Isolated full depth snowslides can be unleashed at any time of day.

Trend for Easter Sunday and Easter Monday

On Sunday it is expected to be increasingly sunny in southern regions, in northern regions predominantly so. On Monday it will be partly cloudy in northern regions, in southern regions it will be quite sunny. It is expected to remain mild. The avalanche danger is not expected to change measurably. Depending on outgoing longwave radiation during the night, favourable conditions are expected to prevail in the mornings in high alpine regions in particular. The avalanche danger, due to the daytime warming cycle, will increase on each day.

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

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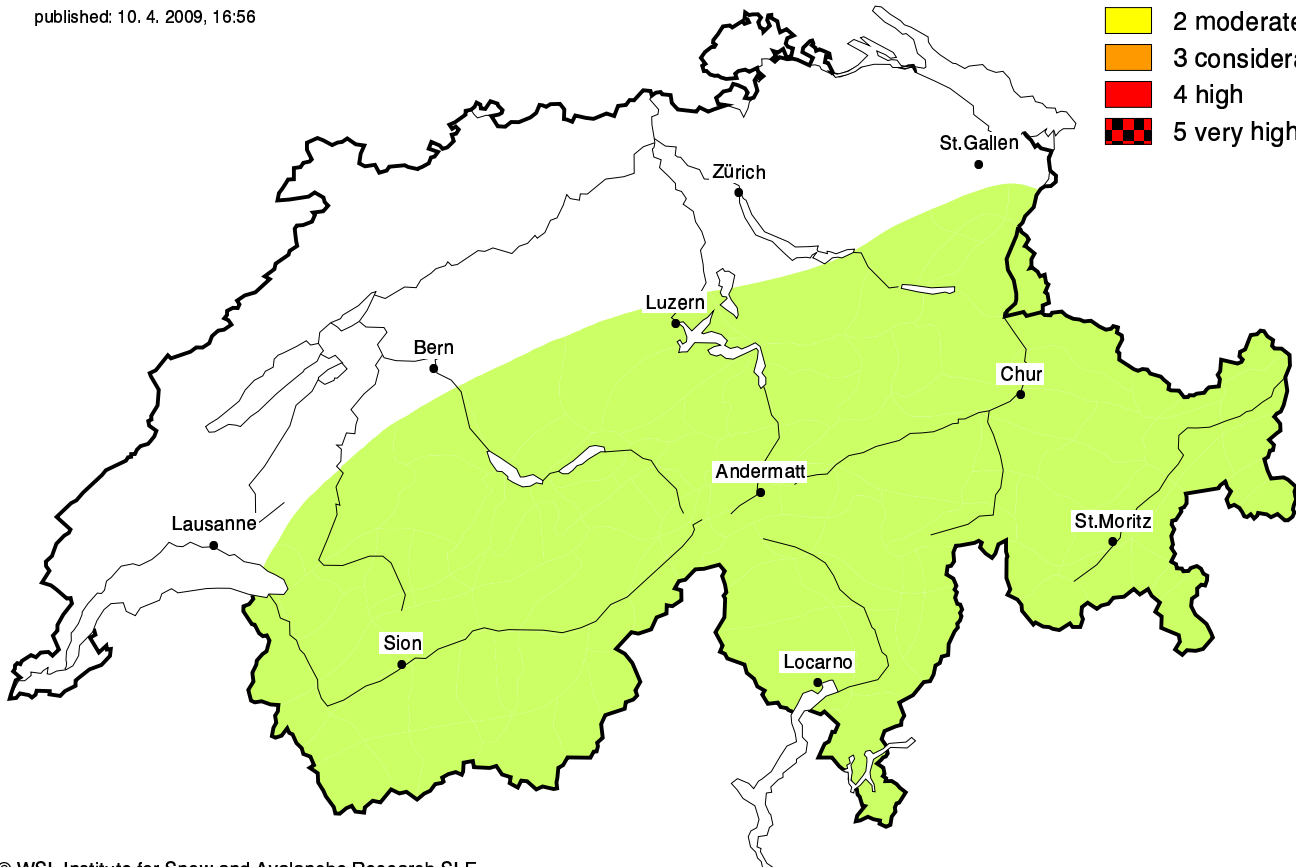
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 11. April 2009

published: 10. 4. 2009, 16:56

Danger level

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



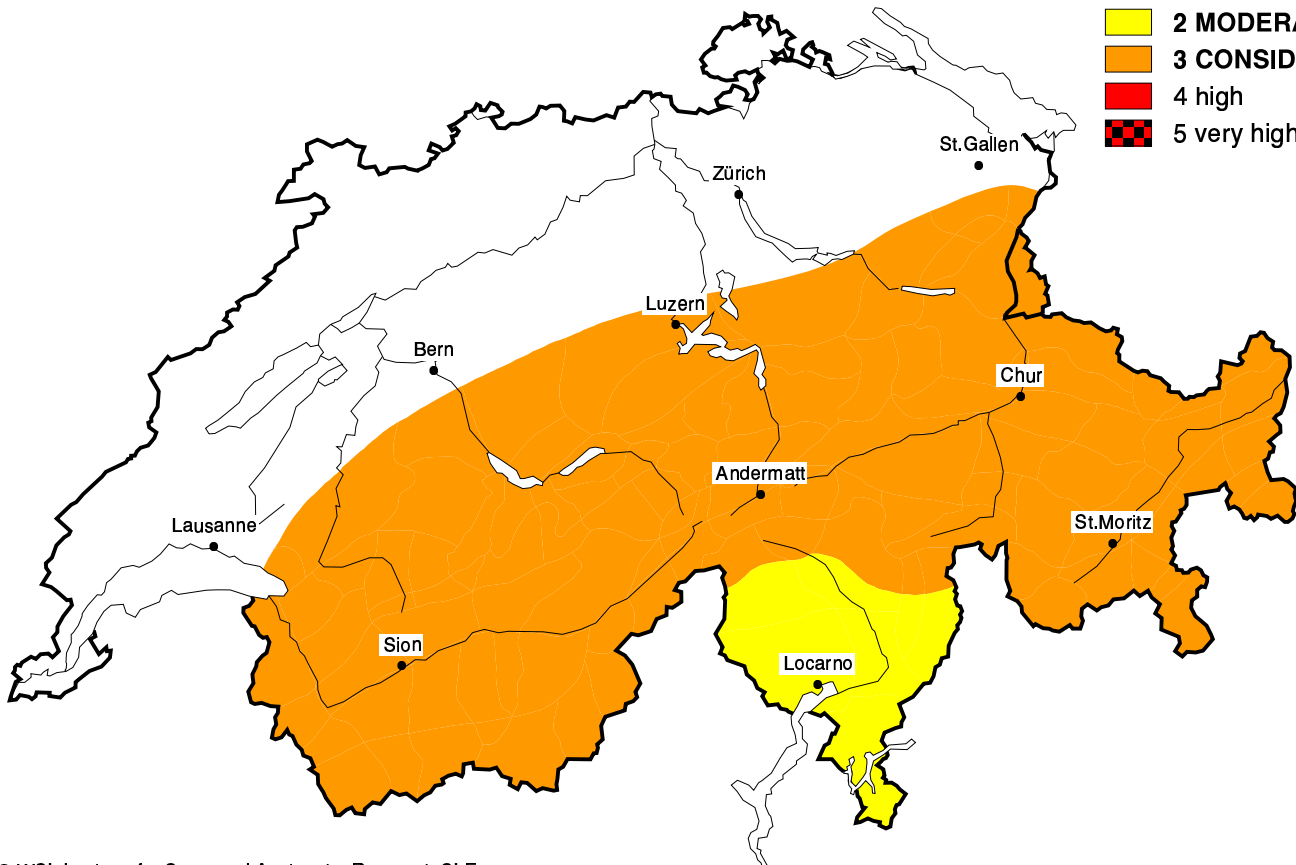
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Saturday, 11. April 2009

Danger level

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



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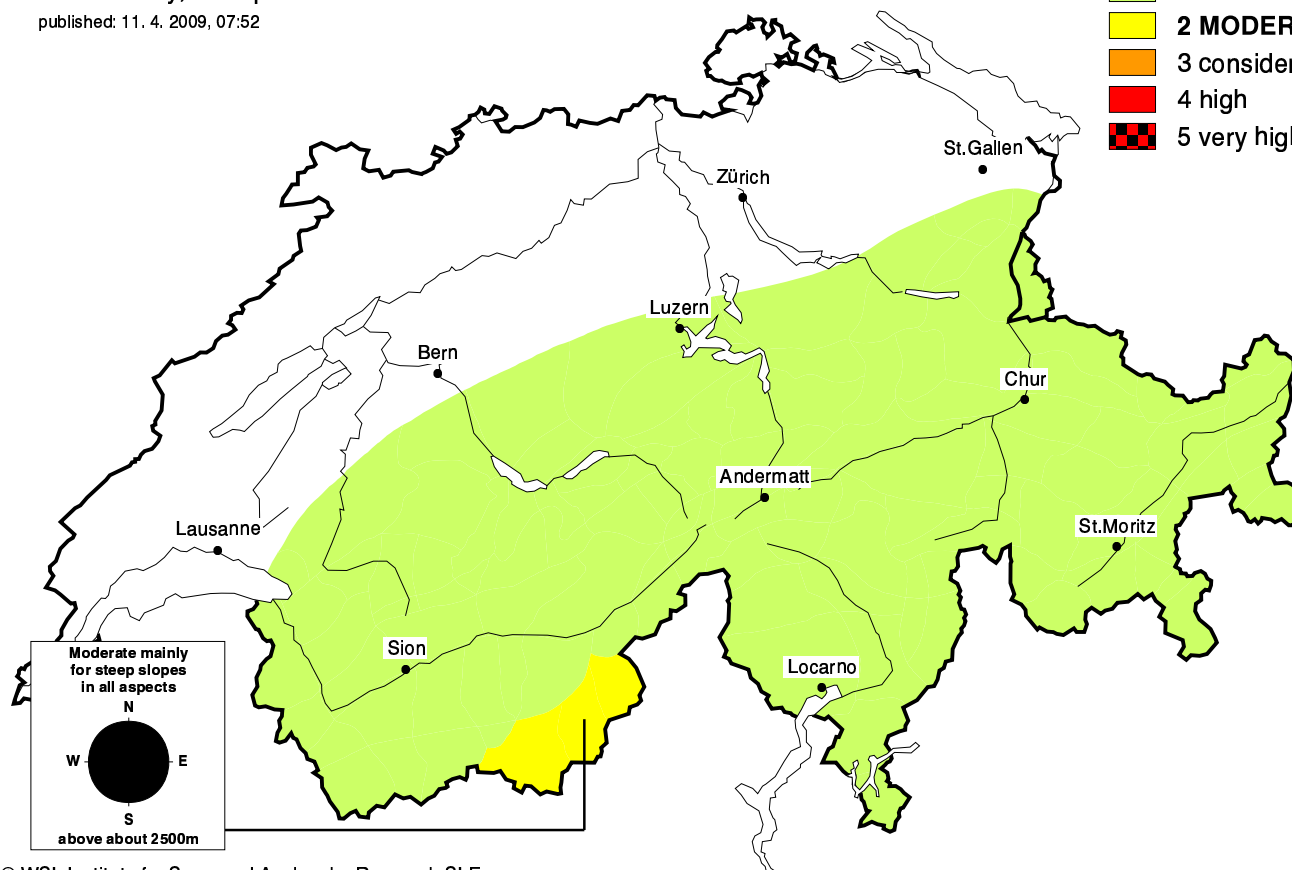
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 11. April 2009

published: 11. 4. 2009, 07:52

Danger level

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



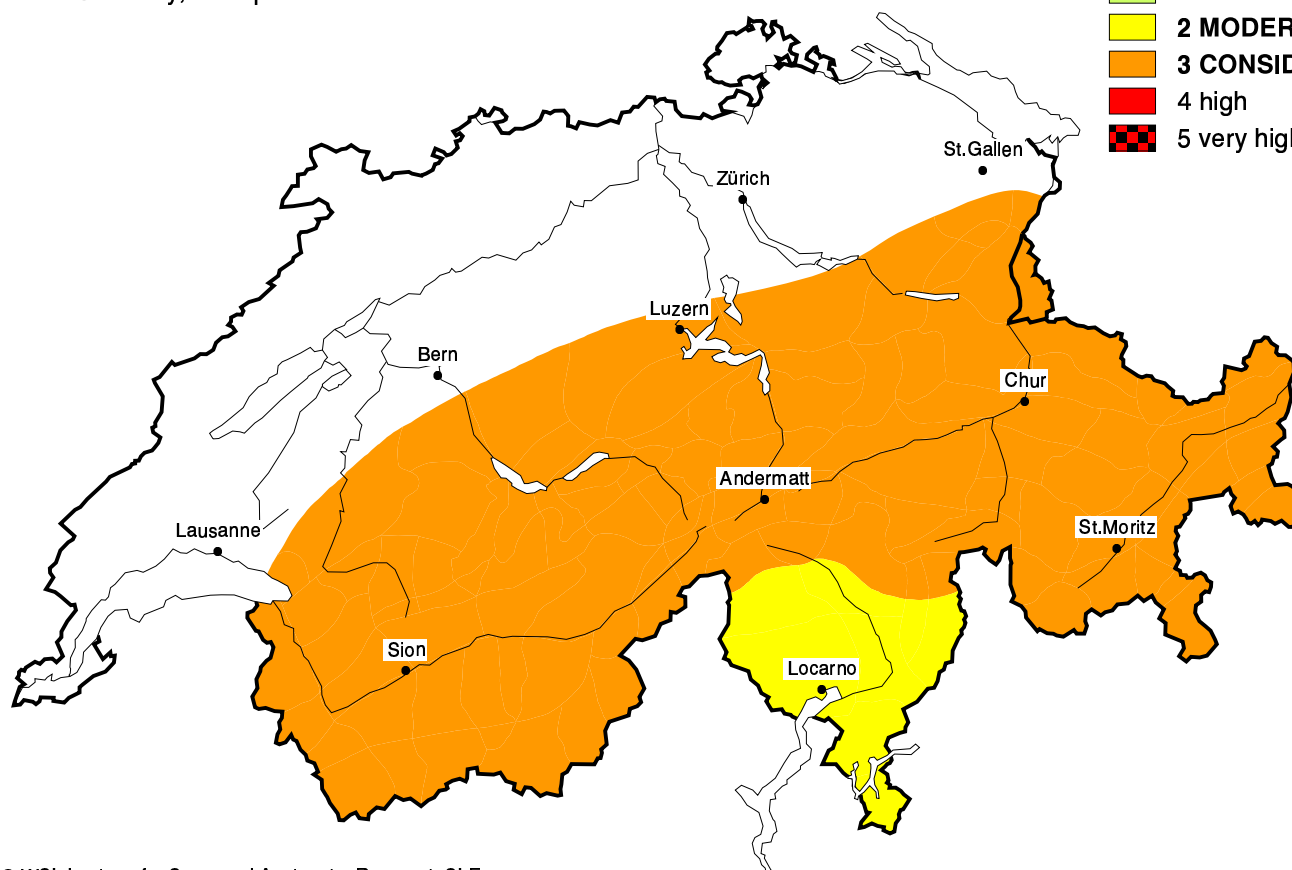
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