

National avalanche bulletin no. 159

for Sunday, 12 April 2009

issue date 11.4.2009, 18:30 hours

Nocturnal outgoing longwave radiation is reduced in the Valais, poor in southern regions

Current conditions

On Holy Saturday it was quite sunny on the northern flank of the Alps. In Grisons and in the Valais it was variably cloudy. In southern regions it was overcast. From Monte Rosa over the uppermost Saastal into the Simplon region above approximately 2500 m, there was 20 to 40 cm of new snow. In the bordering regions and in northwestern Ticino, there was about 10 cm of new snow, elsewhere less. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between plus 6 degrees in northern regions and plus 2 degrees in southern regions. A moderate southerly to southeasterly wind was blowing.

The activity of wet snow avalanches was somewhat reduced on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, due to the cooling southerly winds. Very steep south facing slopes below about 2400 m have been partially discharged. In the remaining expositions there are still large amounts of snow widespread, and thus, ongoing potential for further wet snow avalanches.

Short-term development

During Saturday night it will be predominantly clear in northern and eastern regions. In the Valais it will be partly cloudy. Along the Main Alpine Ridge in the Valais as well as in Ticino, it is expected to be overcast and the outgoing longwave radiation during the night will be poor. During the day on Easter Sunday, it will be quite sunny in northern regions. In southern regions it will turn increasingly clear. In the Monte Rosa and the Simplon regions above approximately 2500 m, an additional 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. Light easterly winds will prevail. A more pronounced daytime warming cycle is anticipated than in the last few days.

Avalanche danger forecast for Easter Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps from the Matterhorn to Monte Leone:

Moderate danger for dry avalanches (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2500 m. The danger level "moderate" (Level 2) applies to the major areas of precipitation along the Italian border. The new fallen snow and snowdrift should be evaluated with great caution.

Remaining regions 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 are most prevalent in the high alpine regions with new snow. If they are 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 Monday and Tuesday

On Easter Monday and on Tuesday, it is expected to be quite sunny on both sides of the Alps. Over the course of the day, convective clouds are expected to form. Isolated showers are possible. In general, the nocturnal outgoing longwave radiation will be adequate. In the morning, favourable backcountry touring conditions will prevail in high alpine regions in particular. The avalanche danger will increase on both days throughout the course of the 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

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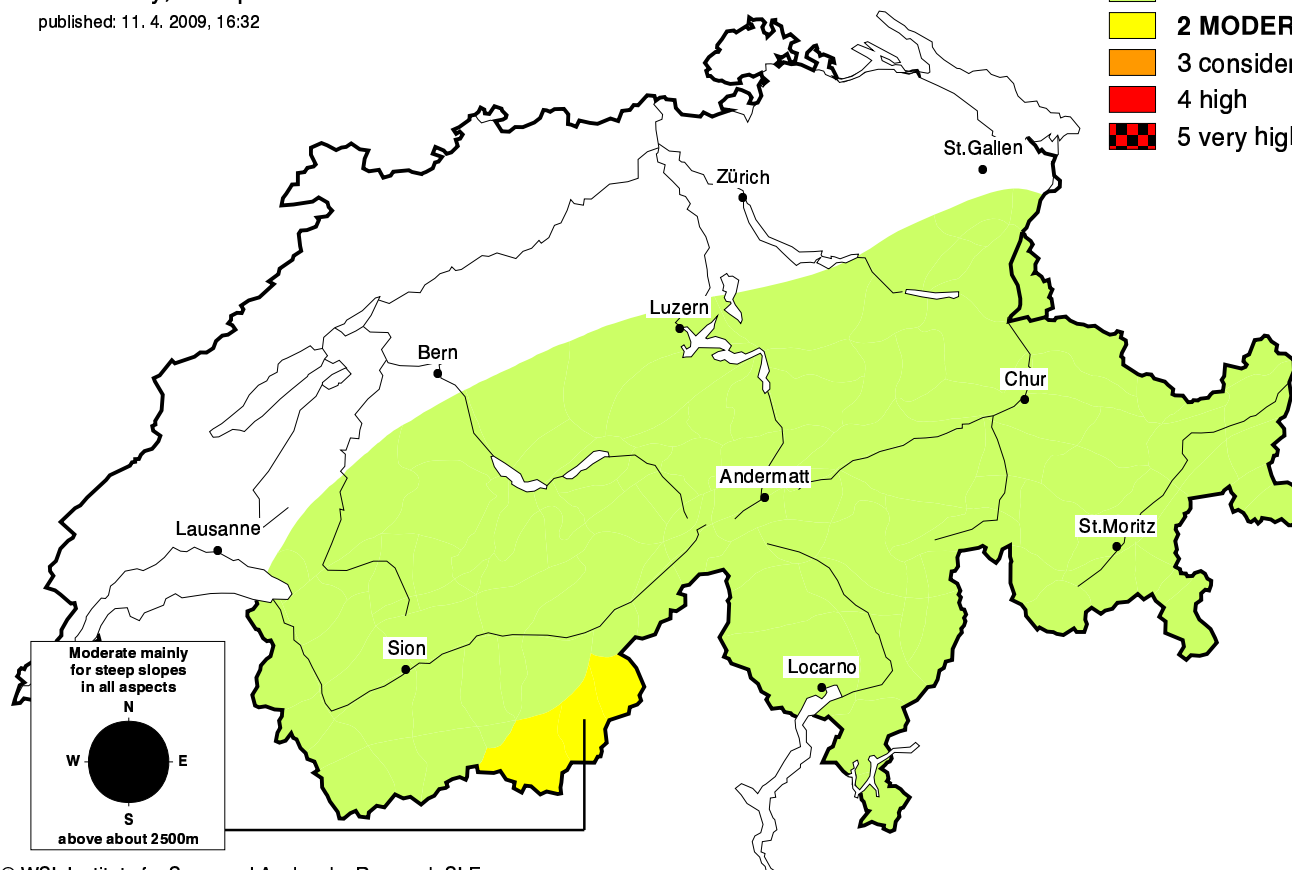
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Sunday, 12. April 2009

published: 11. 4. 2009, 16:32

Danger level

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



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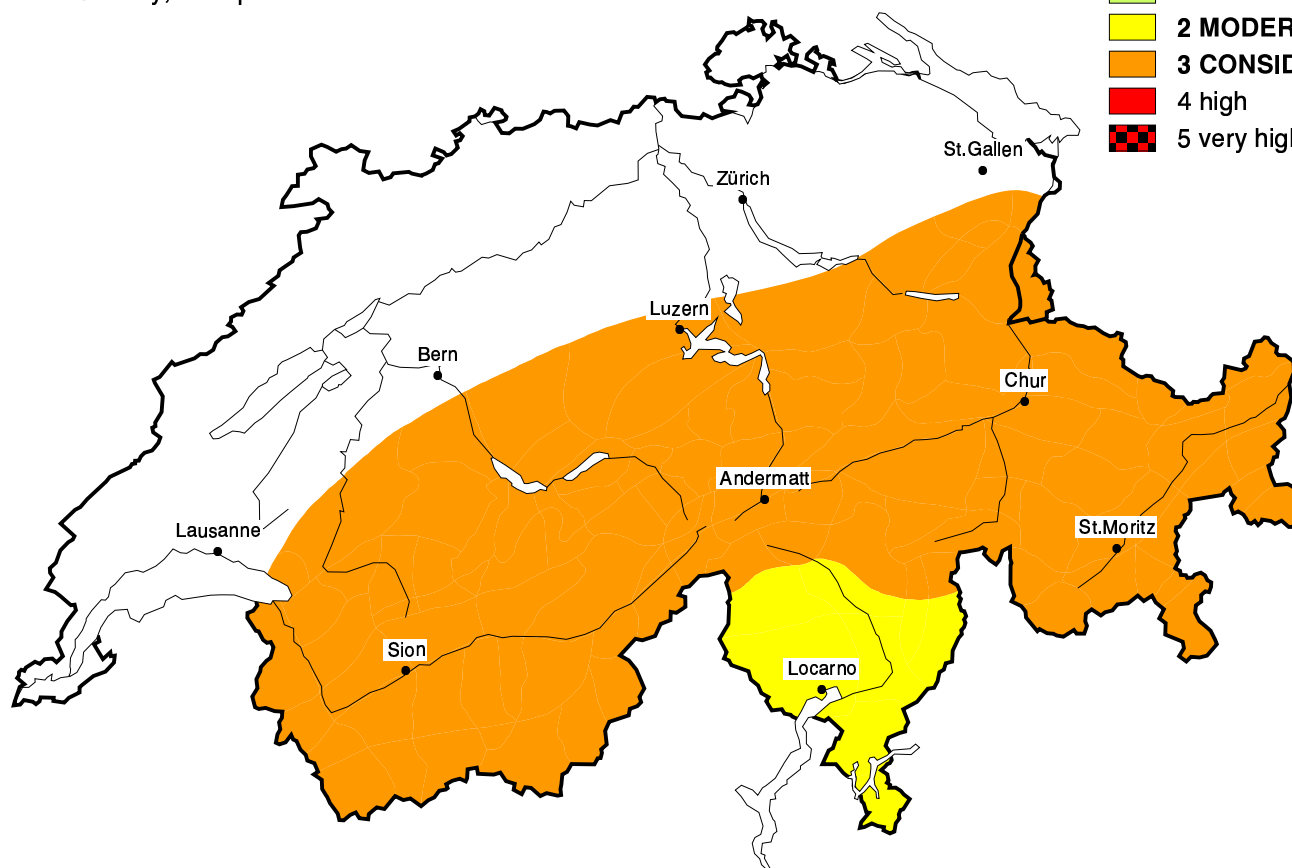


Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Sunday, 12. April 2009

Danger level

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



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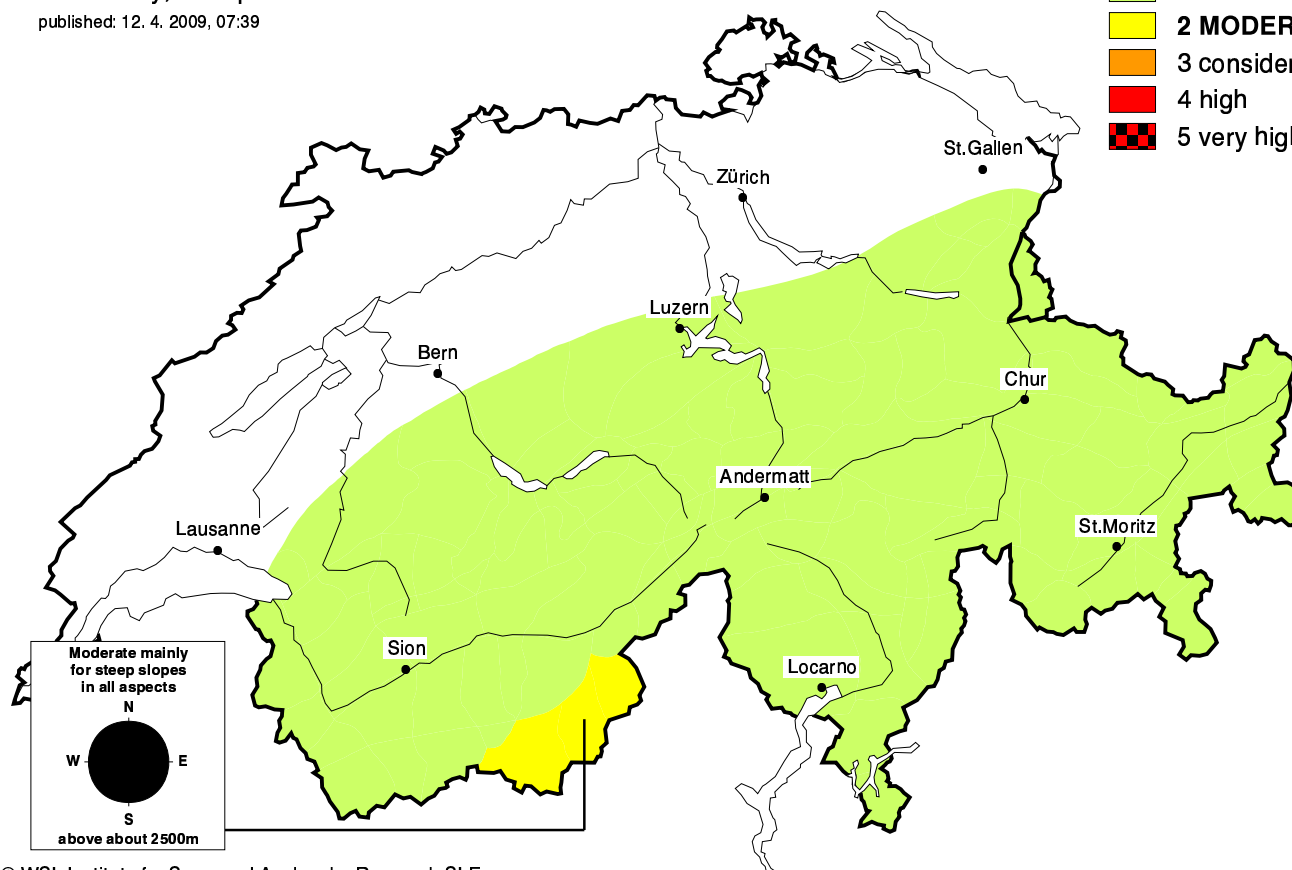
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Sunday, 12. April 2009

published: 12. 4. 2009, 07:39

Danger level

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



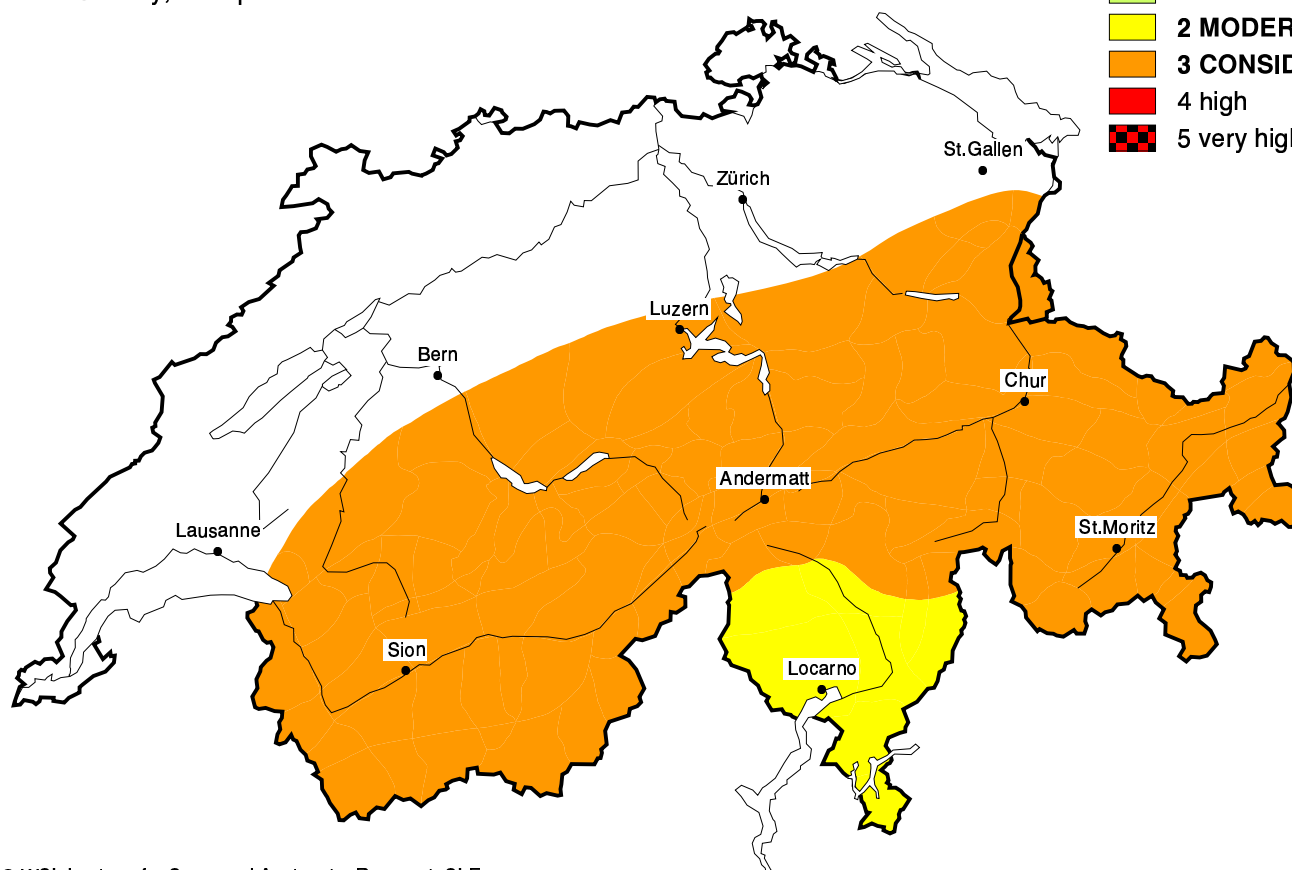
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