

National avalanche bulletin no. 114

for Sunday, 7 March 2010

issue date 6.3.2010, 18:30 hours

Very treacherous avalanche situation in some regions

Current conditions

On the northern flank of the Alps east of the Haslital, there was 25 to 40 cm of snowfall by Saturday afternoon. In the bordering regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, there was 10 to 25 cm, in the remaining regions there was less snowfall. In Sotto Ceneri more than anywhere else, sunshine prevailed. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 10 degrees. An intermittently strong to stormy northwesterly wind was blowing at high altitudes in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps; in the remaining regions the wind was moderate to strong. The lightweight new fallen snow has been intensely transported by the wind. Crests and broad ridges have been blown free of snow in some regions. In the relatively wind protected gullies and bowls, perilous snowdrift accumulations have been deposited, which can easily be triggered widespread. In many regions, they are deposited on top of a crust which is not capable of bearing loads, beneath which the old snow is faceted and loosely packed. The old snowpack in the inneralpine regions is particularly weak.

Short-term development

On Saturday night in northern regions, the snowfall will come to an end. On Sunday, the skies will clear and intermittent sunshine is expected. In the course of the day, clouds will move in from the south and towards evening, particularly on the southern flank of the Alps and in southern Valais, a bit of snowfall is anticipated. The midday temperature at 2000 m will continue to be minus 10 degrees. The southerly to southeasterly wind will taper off and be light.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Grisons; northern Ticino:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions, in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1600 m, in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 1800 m. Particularly dangerous are the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which in the central and eastern regions are more widespread and deeper than in western regions. Naturally triggered avalanches can be expected primarily in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps in the event of sunny weather. Avalanches can in isolated cases, especially in western regions, fracture down to deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the treacherous spots are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions. In northern and central Grisons as well as in northern Ticino, they are found above approximately 1800 m; in the Valais, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, above approximately 2000 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations have been deposited on top of a thin, sometimes consolidated surface layer of snow widespread. They can be easily triggered. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, avalanches can sweep along deeply embedded layers of the snowpack. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in all the indicated regions necessitate great caution, extensive experience in assessing avalanche hazards and prudent restraint.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Freshly formed, brittle snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered but usually remain small sized. A cautious route selection is recommended.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday and Tuesday, it will be predominantly sunny above the high fog, and the cold weather will persist. The avalanche danger, due to the low temperatures and the weak old snowpack in many regions, will decrease only gradually.

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)

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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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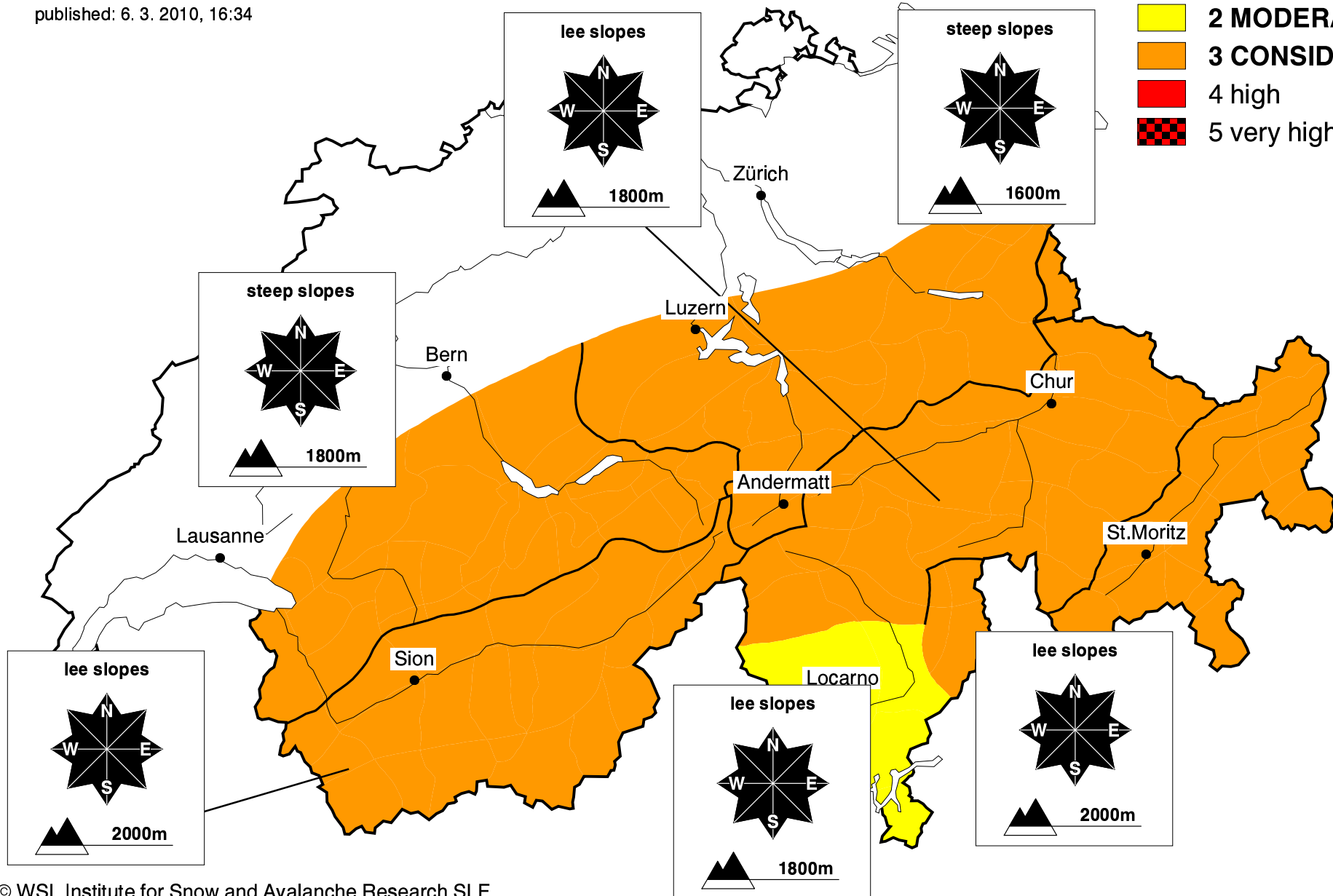
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 7. March 2010

published: 6. 3. 2010, 16:34

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 7. March 2010

published: 7. 3. 2010, 07:36

Danger level

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

