

# National avalanche bulletin no. 115

for Monday, 8 March 2010

issue date 7.3.2010, 18:30 hours

*Widely spread, avalanche danger is considerable*

## Current conditions

Saturday's snowfall slackened off during the night last night, including on the northern flank of the Alps. On Sunday it was partly sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 11 degrees widespread, in eastern regions minus 13 degrees. A light southeasterly wind was blowing in eastern regions, in western regions winds were moderate to strong. Between Saturday and Sunday morning in the Prealps and in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, there was 25 to 40 cm of snowfall. In the bordering regions on the northern flank of the Alps, in Goms and in northern Grisons, there was 10 to 25 cm of snowfall, in the remaining regions less.

The lightweight new fallen snow has been intensely transported by the wind. Due to the low temperatures, the snowdrift in the relatively wind protected gullies and bowls has not yet consolidated sufficiently with the older layers nearest the surface. Beneath those surface layers, the old snow is faceted and loosely packed widespread. The old snowpack in the inneralpine regions is particularly weak.

## Short-term development

On Sunday night and during the day on Monday in southern regions and in the Valais, a few centimeters of snowfall is expected. In the remaining regions it will be predominantly sunny during the day. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 9 degrees. A generally moderate strength easterly wind will be blowing, in western parts of the northern flank of the Alps the winds will be intermittently strong. The snow, particularly in the western sector of the northern flank of the Alps, will tend to be transported and drifted from the eastern and southern facing slopes back to western facing slopes.

## Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including western Lower Valais; Bedretto; upper Leventina; Grisons not including the regions of the Main Alpine Ridge from Lukmanier into Avers and not including lower Val Calanca and lower Val Moesa.:

*Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions. The treacherous spots in the Prealps are found above approximately 1600 m; on the remaining northern flank of the Alps they are found above approximately 1800 m; and in the indicated regions of the Valais, Grisons and of northern Ticino, they are found above approximately 2000 m. Great caution is urged in particular towards the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations from Saturday and in western regions also those which formed on Sunday. These snowdrift accumulations have generally been deposited on top of a thin, in some places consolidated surface layer. They can in many places be triggered with great ease. Avalanches can in isolated cases, primarily in the western and inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, fracture down to deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack.

Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours make a cautious route selection imperative and, whenever called for, distances should be maintained between persons to relieve loads.

Western Lower Valais; upper Maggia valleys; lower Leventina; Main Alpine Ridge from Lukmanier into Avers; lower Val Calanca and lower Val Moesa; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

*Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Freshly formed, brittle snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered but usually remain of small size. In isolated cases, the old snowpack can fracture down to deeply embedded layers. A cautious route selection is recommended.

## Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday in northern regions it will be sunny, accompanied by bise winds. In Ticino a bit of snowfall is anticipated. On Wednesday, weather conditions will be variable, but it will be predominantly cold and dry. The avalanche danger is expected to 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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0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax  
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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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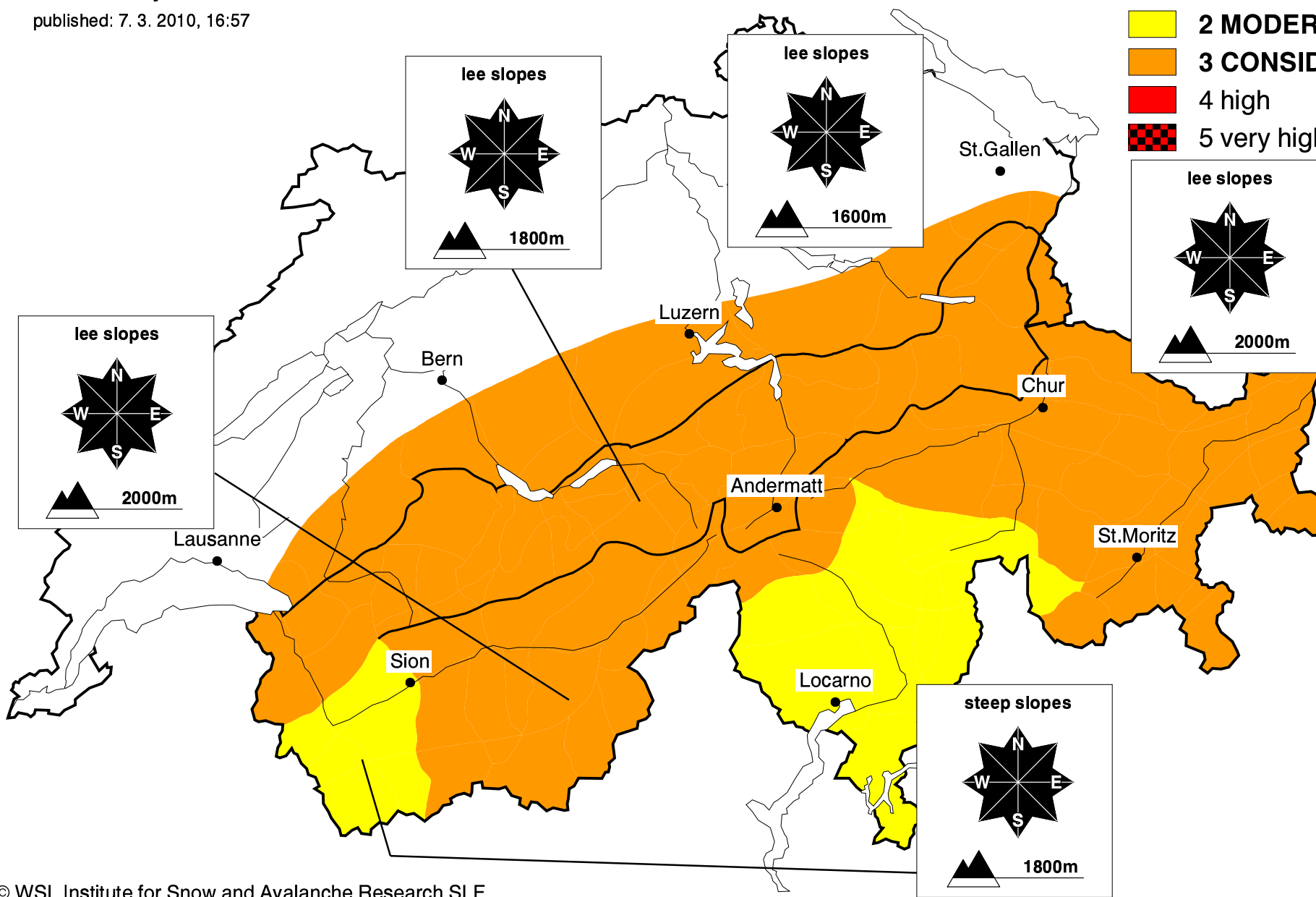
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 8. March 2010

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Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 8. March 2010

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Danger level

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

