

National avalanche bulletin no. 117

for Wednesday, 10 March 2010

issue date 9.3.2010, 18:30 hours

Considerable and moderate avalanche danger - snow drift accumulations require caution

Current conditions

Tuesday was partly sunny in Valais and Grisons, but mostly cloudy elsewhere. 5 to 15 cm of snow fell over an area extending from the Simplon region to the Valle Maggia. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 16 degrees in the northwest and minus 13 degrees in the other regions. The southeasterly to easterly wind was moderate to strong on the northern Alpine ridge and in the western prealps and Lower Engadine, but light elsewhere.

The snowpack is subject to considerable local variations. Snow drift accumulations on the surface are steadily hardening. In the middle and deep layers, the snowpack is faceted and loosely bonded over a wide area. These conditions exist in particular in the inneralpine regions and, to some extent, in the central and western parts of the northern flank of the Alps. Although fractures in the old snow pack are becoming rarer, they can still occur, especially on shady slopes.

Short-term development

Wednesday will be partly sunny in the west and in Grisons, but mostly cloudy elsewhere. In southern Valais, Ticino and southern Grisons, 5 to 10 cm of snow will fall. Further north, only a few centimetres will fall. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 5 degrees. At high altitudes, the wind will be moderate from the east to southeast. Generally small, brittle snow drift accumulations will form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Prealps; Chablais; Vaud Alps; western Bernese Oberland; Hasliberg - Rosenlauri; Guttannen; Gadmertal; Grimsel Pass; central part of the northern flank of the Alps west of the Reuss; Urseren; Goms; Tavetsch; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to east facing wind-loaded slopes. The treacherous locations are to be found above approximately 1600 m in the prealps, Chablais, Vaud Alps and western Bernese Oberland, and above approximately 2000 m in the other regions subject to this danger level. Snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. In many places these are brittle and, to an increasing extent, hard as well. They can be released by a single person. In isolated cases, avalanches can penetrate the old snow cover. Experience in the assessment of avalanche danger and careful route selection are required, in particular by those engaging in backcountry activities.

Remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Fresh, brittle snow drift accumulations can be released easily, but are mostly small. They must be evaluated with care and prudence. In isolated cases, fractures can penetrate the old snow cover. This applies in particular on shady slopes in the altitude range from approximately 2000 to 3000 m. Within this range, defensive behaviour is required, even if the avalanche danger is moderate.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday it will be mostly cloudy, and a little snow will fall. On Friday it will be generally sunny. The avalanche danger will decrease slowly.

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

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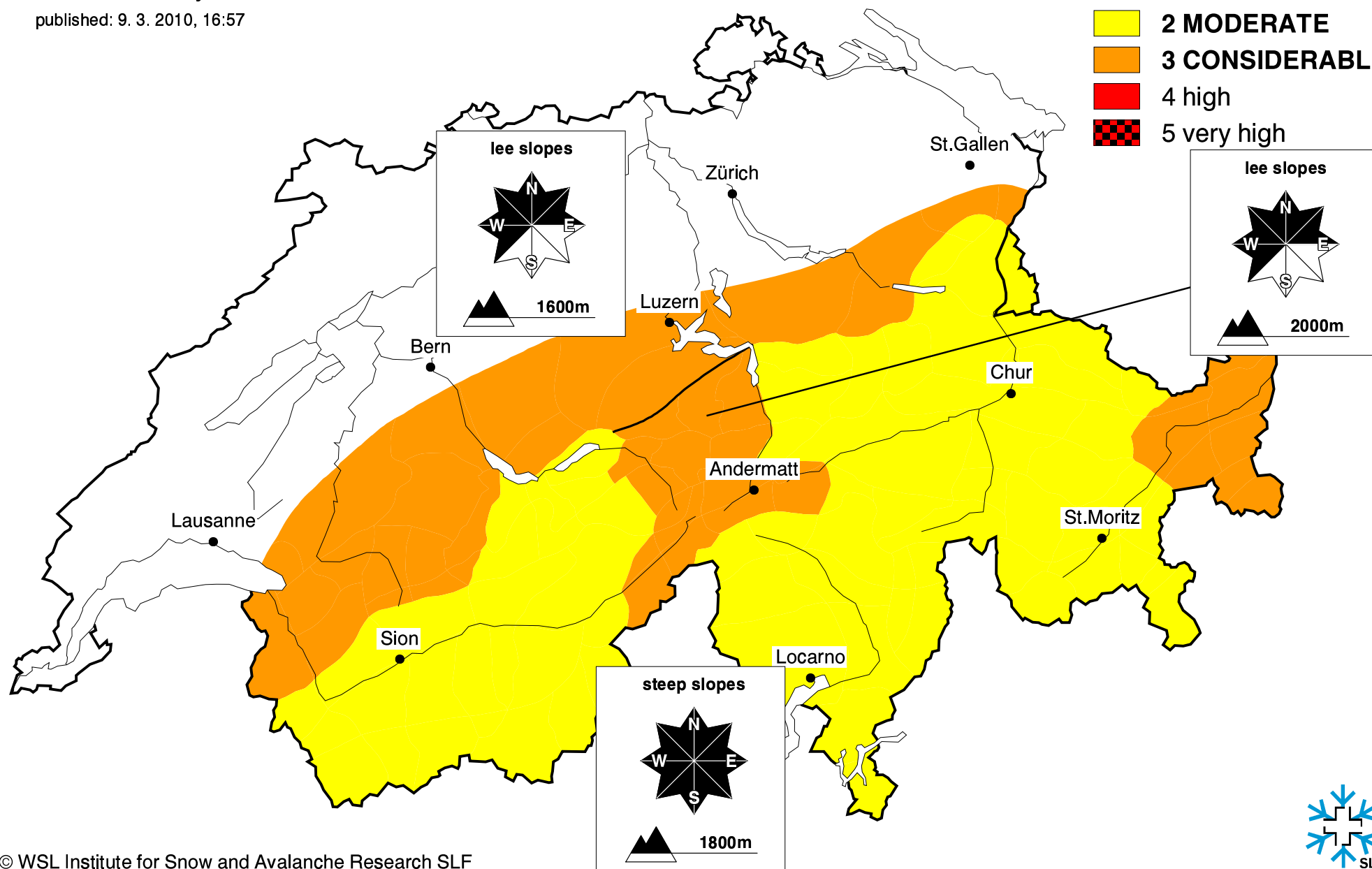
Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 10. March 2010

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Danger level

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

