

## National avalanche bulletin no. 122

for Monday, 15 March 2010

issue date 14.3.2010, 18:30 hours

***Moderate avalanche danger - slightly escalating danger in eastern regions***

### Current conditions

On Sunday it was sunny in most regions of the Swiss Alps. Along the Prealps and in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, low stratus-like, high fog clouds moved in from the north over the course of the day. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between zero degrees in southern regions and minus 5 degrees in eastern regions. In western regions and along the Prealps, a light northwesterly wind was blowing, elsewhere it was of moderate velocity.

The snowpack has a highly varied structure even across small surface areas. The uppermost layers are often hardened and brittle, in some regions even still powdery. In the intermediate and more deeply embedded layers, the snowpack consists of faceted and loosely packed snow crystals widespread. This is especially the case in the inneralpine regions and in some sectors of the central and western parts of the northern flank of the Alps. Fractures in the old snowpack now occur less frequently in those regions, but are still possible nonetheless. The snow layering in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, on the southern flank of the Alps and on heavily frequented slopes is somewhat more favourable. On the uppermost layer of the snowpack, surface hoar has formed in many regions. On very steep, slopes in southern exposition at intermediate altitudes, the snowpack is capable of bearing loads in some regions during the morning hours, particularly in western regions.

### Short-term development

On Monday on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons, it will be heavily overcast and 5 to 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated in eastern regions in particular. In the Valais and in the Engadine it is expected to be rather sunny, on the southern flank of the Alps predominantly so. The midday temperatures in northern regions will be minus 7 degrees and in southern regions minus 3 degrees. The northerly wind will become quite brisk everywhere and reach moderate to strong velocity. Only in western regions and in the Valais will it be of light to moderate strength.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

*Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

In the Chablais, in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, in the western part of the Bernese Oberland and in Lower Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in southwestern to northern to southeastern aspects as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in all aspects. In the Chablais, in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps and in the western part of the Bernese Oberland, they are found above approximately 1800 m; in the Lower Valais, above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered particularly through large additional loading. These can even fracture deep inside the old snowpack in isolated cases, especially in central Lower Valais. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be evaluated with great care.

In the remaining regions of the Swiss Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects. In the eastern part of the Bernese Oberland and in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, the danger zones are to be found above approximately 1800 m; in the Upper Valais, in Ticino and in Grisons, they are found above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered, although they remain small sized in general. Particularly in the regions with new fallen snow, the snowdrift accumulations are expected to increase somewhat in size and in frequency over the course of the day; they are to be found particularly in pass areas, beneath breaks in the terrain and in gullies and bowls. By exercising a cautious route selection, they should be avoided whenever possible. In addition, avalanches can fracture deep inside the old snowpack in isolated cases, particularly in places with shallow snow and in general at altitudes between 2000 and 3000 m. Measures to protect and preserve the snowpack are called for.

### Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday morning in northern regions and in the Engadine, it is expected to be heavily overcast and a bit of snowfall is anticipated. During the afternoon it will turn increasingly sunny, as is expected even earlier in the remaining regions. On Wednesday it will be sunny and noticeably warmer. On Tuesday, the avalanche danger will escalate somewhat further in northern and eastern regions. On Wednesday, it is expected that the avalanche danger will be subject to a daytime warming cycle.

#### 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  
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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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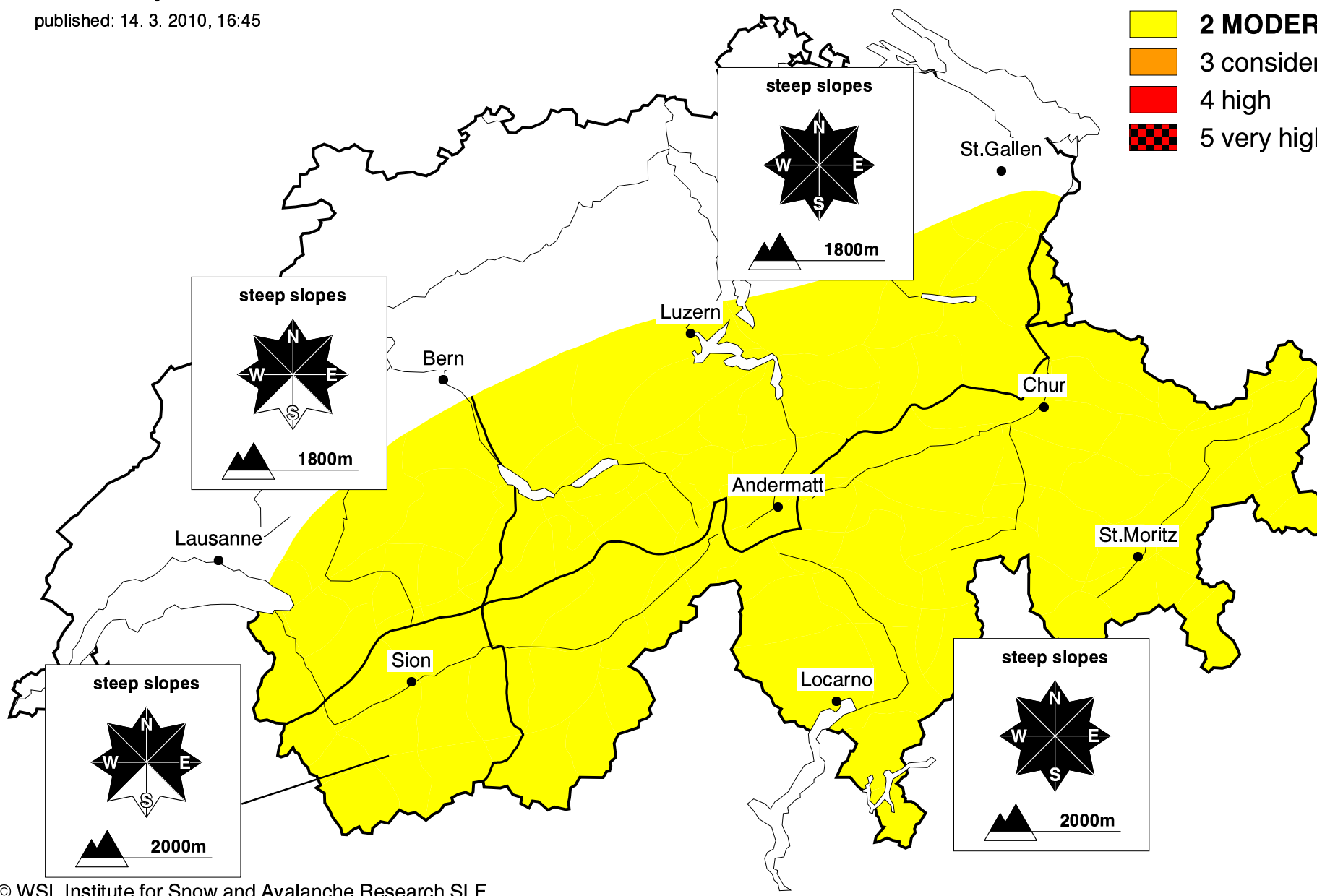
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 15. March 2010

published: 14. 3. 2010, 16:45

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 15. March 2010

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