

# National avalanche bulletin no. 124

for Wednesday, 17 March 2010

issue date 16.3.2010, 18:30 hours

## *Significant warming and widespread danger of wet snow avalanches*

### Current conditions

Tuesday was overcast on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons. In the east, the snowfall ceased in the afternoon. Since the precipitation began on Sunday evening, 20 to 30 cm of snow has fallen on the northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss, and 10 to 20 cm has fallen from northern Surselva and Flims to Prättigau. Generally less than 10 cm of snow has fallen elsewhere. The weather was partly sunny in Valais and Engadine, and mostly sunny on the southern flank of the Alps. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about minus 6 degrees in the north and minus 3 degrees in the south. The northerly wind was moderate to strong in Grisons, but light to moderate elsewhere.

The quality of the snowpack is subject to considerable local variations. In the middle and deep layers, it 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. The bonding of the snowpack is a little more favourable in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps, on the southern flank of the Alps, and on highly frequented slopes. The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations of recent days are prone to triggering.

### Short-term development

Wednesday will be mostly sunny. The temperature will increase significantly and reach about plus 1 degree at midday at 2000 m. The westerly wind will be light to moderate.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss; Flims-Untervaz; Prättigau:

*Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh snow drift accumulations of recent days can be released easily in some places. The likelihood of triggering increases under the influence of the sun and heat. Natural avalanches are possible.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps; Valais; rest of central Grisons; Engadine, Grisons southern valleys; northern and central Ticino:

*Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

In Chablais, the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, the western Bernese Oberland, Valais and central Ticino, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to east facing steep slopes. They are to be found above approximately 2000 m in Chablais, the Vaud and Fribourg Alps and the western Bernese Oberland, and above approximately 2200 m in Valais and central Ticino. Avalanches can be triggered, especially by large additional loads. They can be triggered in the old snowpack in isolated cases, in central Valais in particular.

In the eastern Bernese Oberland and in the central part of the northern flank of the Alps west of the Reuss, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. In northern Ticino, central Grisons, Engadine and the Grisons southern valleys, they are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. Snow drift accumulations can be released easily, but they are generally rather small. They are to be avoided by selecting routes carefully. In addition, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack in isolated cases, especially in central Grisons and Lower Engadine.

Sotto Ceneri:

*Low avalanche danger (level 1)*

In all regions, the danger of wet snow avalanches will increase during the day; it will become considerable (level 3) on the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais and northern Grisons in particular. Especially on steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m, wet avalanches are to be expected. In some cases, snow sliding on the surface can penetrate and release deep layers of the old snowpack. This danger exists in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and Lower Valais in particular, where avalanches can reach medium size

### Trend for Thursday and Friday

Thursday will be fairly sunny, and Friday will be cloudy with bright intervals. The freezing level will rise to approximately 3000 m. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet snow avalanches will vary during the day and become more prevalent in the eastern regions as well.

#### 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

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

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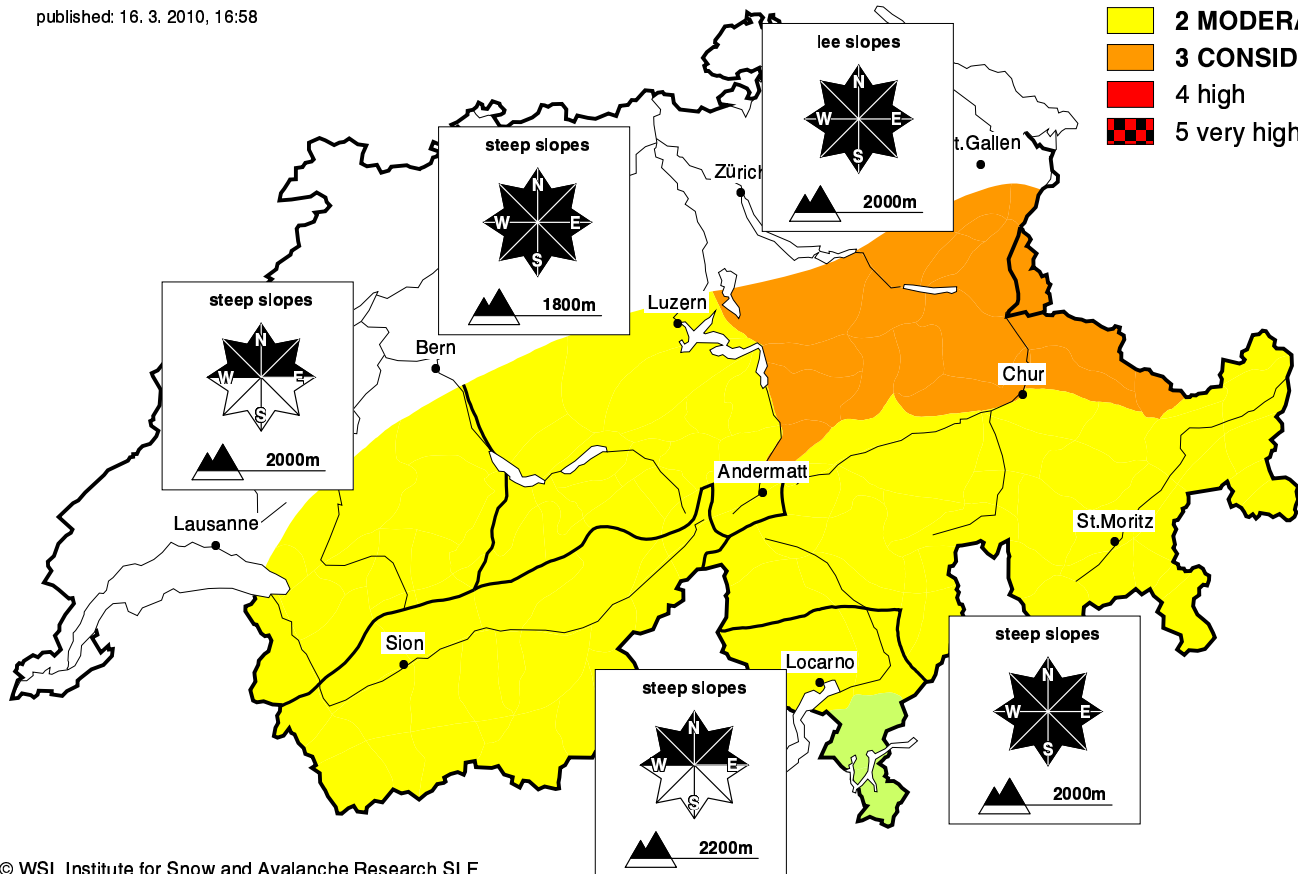
## Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Wednesday, 17. March 2010

published: 16. 3. 2010, 16:58

Danger level

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



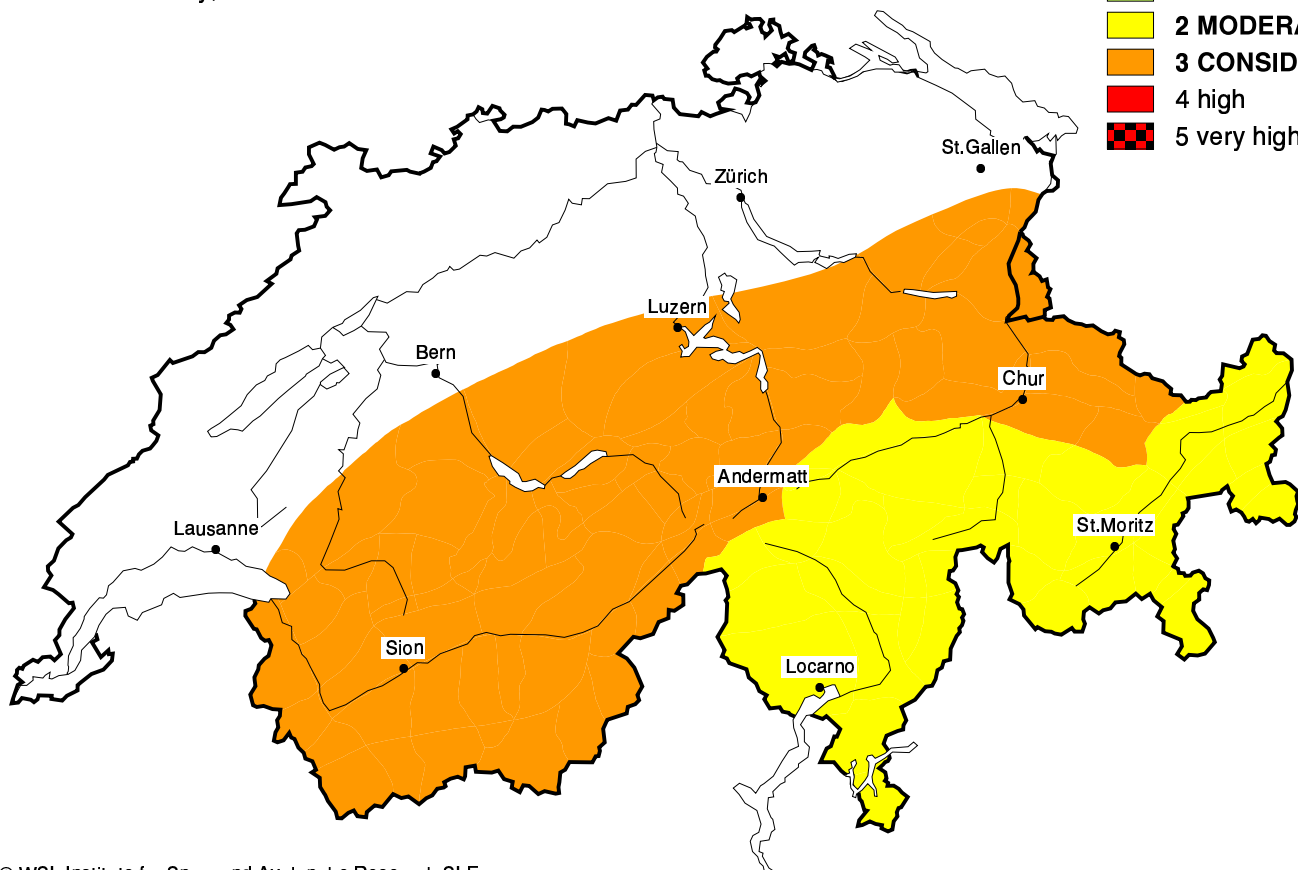
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## Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Wednesday, 17. March 2010

Danger level

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



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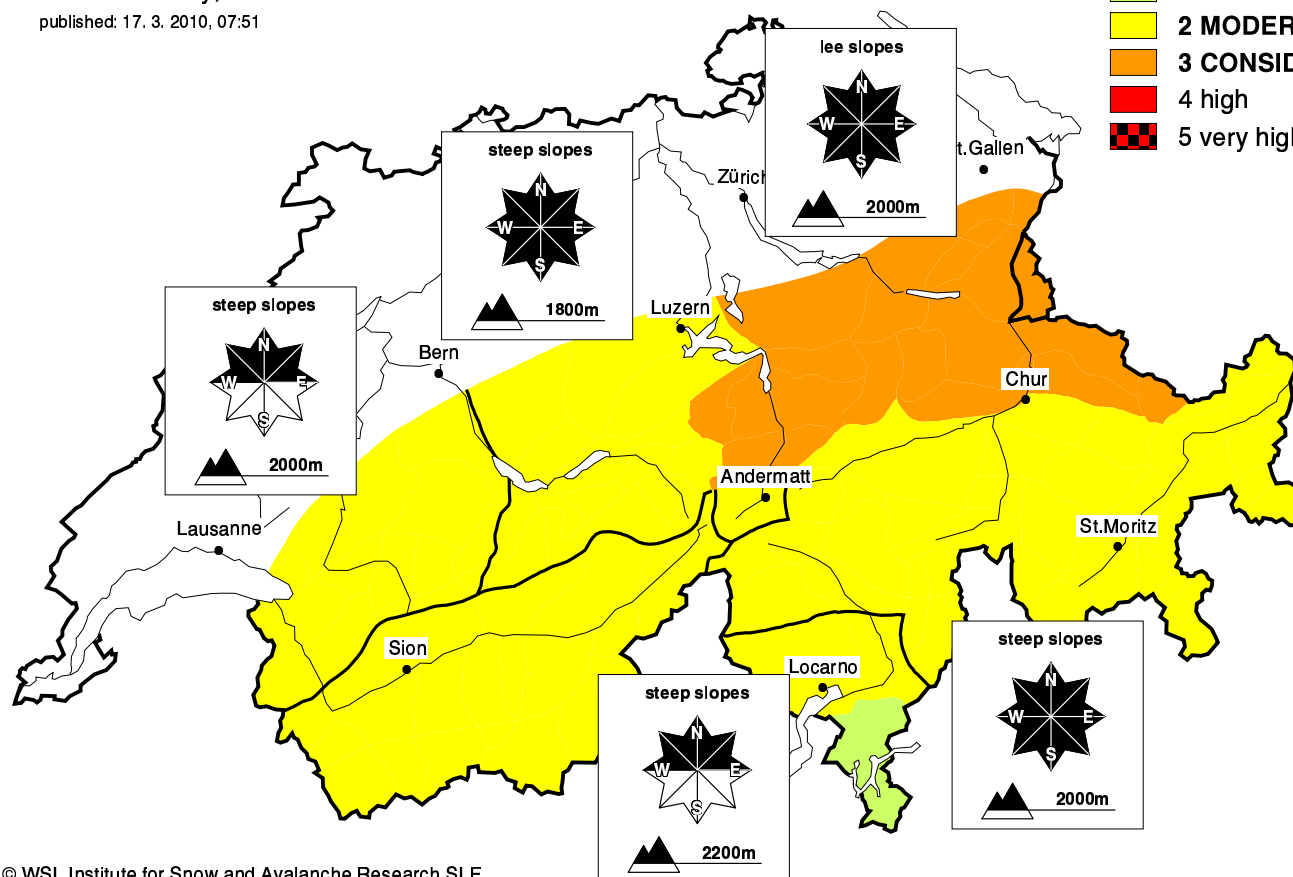
## Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Wednesday, 17. March 2010

published: 17. 3. 2010, 07:51

Danger level

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



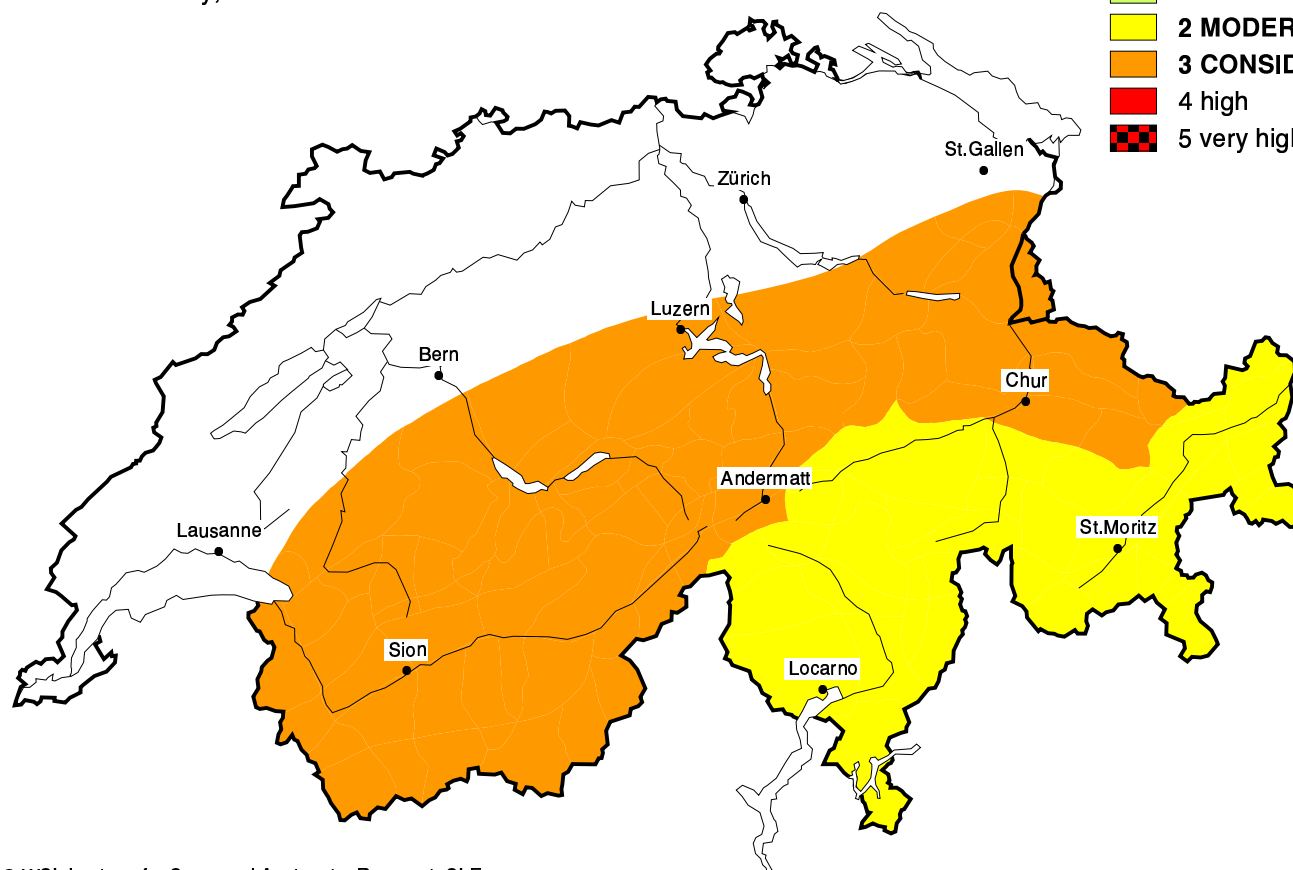
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