

National avalanche bulletin no. 128

for Sunday, 21 March 2010

issue date 20.3.2010, 18:30 hours

Very treacherous avalanche situation in some regions, particularly for wet snow avalanches

Current conditions

In general on Saturday, it was heavily overcast in northwestern and southern regions, elsewhere there were some bright intervals. In western Lower Valais and in the Prealps it was raining lightly. The snowfall level was at 2400 m. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between plus 5 degrees in northern regions and minus 1 degree in southern regions. A light to moderate southerly to southwesterly wind was blowing. The snowpack is of highly varied structure even across small surface areas. Its intermediate and more deeply embedded layers are faceted and loosely packed widespread. This is particularly the case in inneralpine regions and partially so in the central and western parts of the northern flank of the Alps. 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. Steep slopes of southern exposition below 2200 to 2500 m are thoroughly wet; below about 3000 meters they are moist on the surface. North facing slopes are moist on the snowpack surface below about 2400 m.

Short-term development

On Saturday night in northwestern regions and in the Lower Valais it will be overcast, accompanied by light precipitation. On Sunday it will in general still be heavily overcast, only in northern and central Grisons will there be bright spells in some places during the morning hours. Between Saturday and Sunday afternoon above approximately 2600 m in the western Lower Valais, 10 to 15 cm of snowfall is expected. In the remaining Lower Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps, a few centimeters of snowfall is expected. The snowfall level will drop from 2600 down to 2000 m. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 3 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. A moderate westerly wind will be blowing on the northern flank of the Alps, elsewhere the wind will be light to moderate. The nocturnal outgoing radiation will be reduced and the snowpack surface will hardly freeze. Due to the rainfall and the diffuse radiation, the snowpack will continue to be weakened in all expositions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Chablais; Trient; Champex; Great St. Bernard:

High avalanche danger for wet snow avalanches (Level 4)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions below about 2600 m. Naturally triggered moist and wet snow avalanches can be expected, increasingly frequently even on north facing slopes. The avalanches often sweep along the entire snowpack and quite often attain medium size, in isolated cases even large size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are at risk in some places. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, unfavourable conditions prevail.

Remaining northern flank of the Alps; remaining Valais; central part of Main Alpine Ridge; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger for wet snow avalanches (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions below approximately 2600 m. Naturally triggered moist and wet snow avalanches can be expected. In isolated cases, exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered. On backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative.

Regions south of the central part of Main Alpine Ridge:

Moderate avalanche danger for wet snow avalanches (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions below about 2200 m.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the peril of dry avalanches is moderate (Danger Level 2) on steep slopes in western to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2200 m in particular. More than elsewhere in the inneralpine regions of the Valais and Grisons, dry avalanches can be triggered down in deeply embedded layers of the snowpack.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will be predominantly overcast and above approximately 1500 m a bit of snowfall is anticipated widespread. The snowfall will come to an end on Monday night. On Tuesday it will turn increasingly sunny. The peril of wet snow avalanches will recede, the danger of dry avalanches will increase from region to region.

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
(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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

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Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

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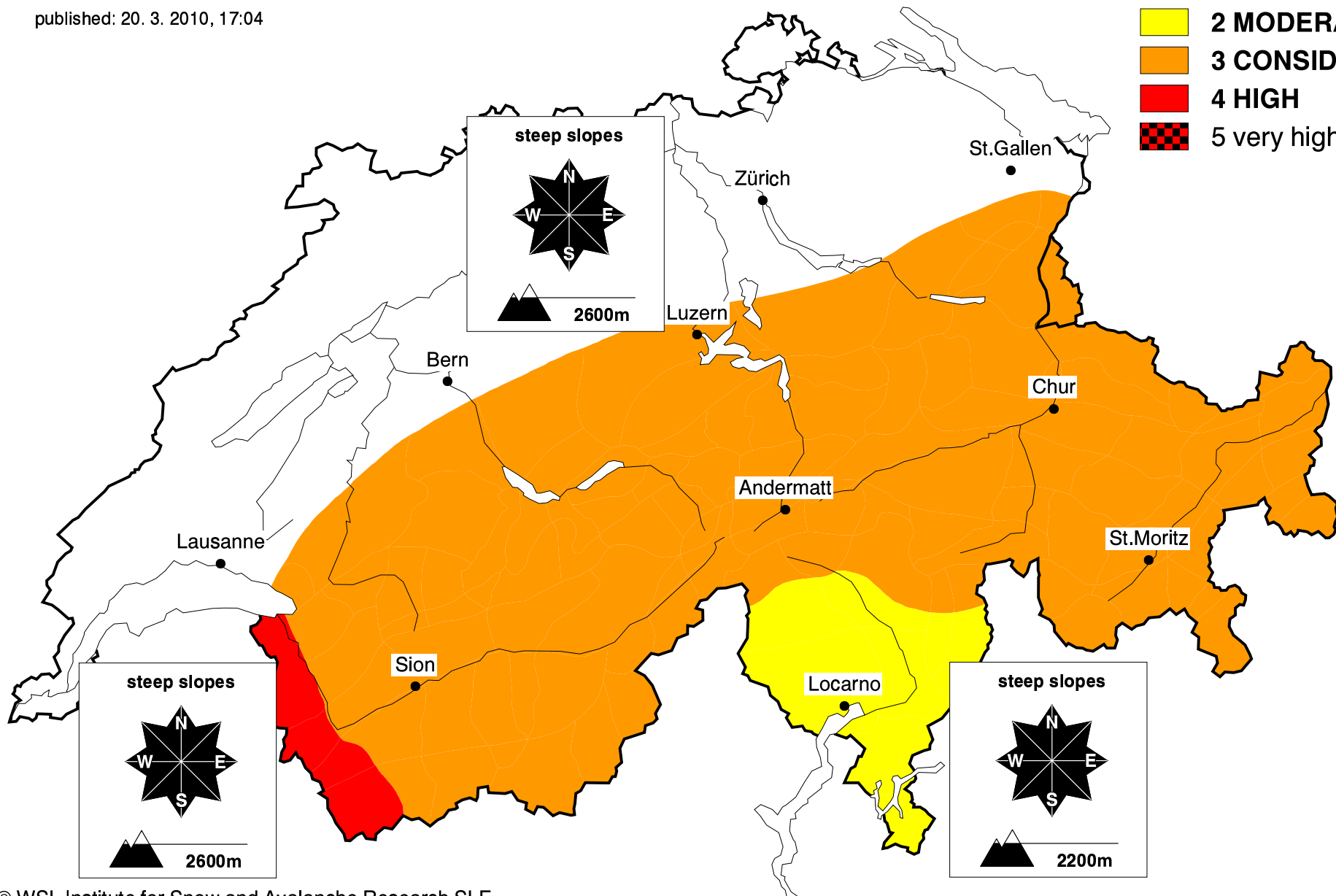
Danger forecast for wet snow avalanches

for Sunday, 21. March 2010

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Danger level

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








Danger forecast for wet snow avalanches

for Sunday, 21. March 2010

published: 21. 3. 2010, 10:12

Danger level

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

