

National avalanche bulletin no. 131

for Wednesday, 24 March 2010

issue date 23.3.2010, 18:30 hours

Generally favourable avalanche situation in the morning, wet snow avalanches during the day

Current conditions

Tuesday morning was partly cloudy in the east, but sunny elsewhere. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between plus 4 degrees in the west and plus 1 degree in the east. The wind was light.

Steep south facing slopes are moist all the way through below 2300 to 2600 m. On north facing slopes, the surface of the snowpack is moist below approximately 2400 m. The snowpack is weakly bonded, especially in the inneralpine regions. In many places, deep layers of the snowpack are faceted and very soft. The bonding of the snowpack is a little more favourable in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and on the southern flank of the Alps.

Short-term development

On Tuesday night the skies will be mostly clear. In the west, cloud cover will increase during the day. In the east, the onset of a foehn wind will bring sunny weather. In the south, cloud will build up in the morning and a few centimetres of snow will fall in the afternoon. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about plus 2 degrees in the north and 0 degrees in the south. The wind direction will change to southerly. In the afternoon, the wind will be moderate.

During the night, the snow surface will freeze to form a strong crust. Underneath the crust, the snowpack will remain moist and soft. Solar radiation will thaw the crust during the day, and the snowpack will become unstable.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern Alpine ridge; Valais; Urseren; Grisons excluding Val Calanca and Val Moesa:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on northwest to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2600 m. Avalanches can be released by large additional loads in particular. In the inneralpine regions of Valais and Grisons in particular, these avalanches can be released in deeper layers of the snowpack as well. Careful route selection is recommended.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps; central part of the southern flank of the Alps:

Low danger of dry avalanches (level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found on extremely shady slopes in particular.

In all the regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet snow avalanches will increase during the day. The danger will increase to considerable (level 3) over a wide area, and to moderate (level 2) in the southern Simplon region and in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps. In the regions where the danger is considerable, natural wet snow avalanches are expected to be triggered below approximately 2800 m on steep slopes that have retained the snow thus far. In many cases, these can reach medium size. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. Backcountry touring, other off-piste activities and ascents to refuges are to be concluded early. In the regions where the danger is moderate, isolated wet snow avalanches are possible below approximately 2200 m in particular.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday the foehn wind will give rise to bright spells in the north. Snow will fall above approximately 1600 m in the south. In the north, the danger of wet snow avalanches, and in the south, the danger of dry avalanches will increase during the day. On Friday morning the weather will remain bright in the east. Elsewhere, snow will fall over a wide area. The danger of dry avalanches will increase in all regions, but especially in the south.

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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

Feedback information:

Email: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

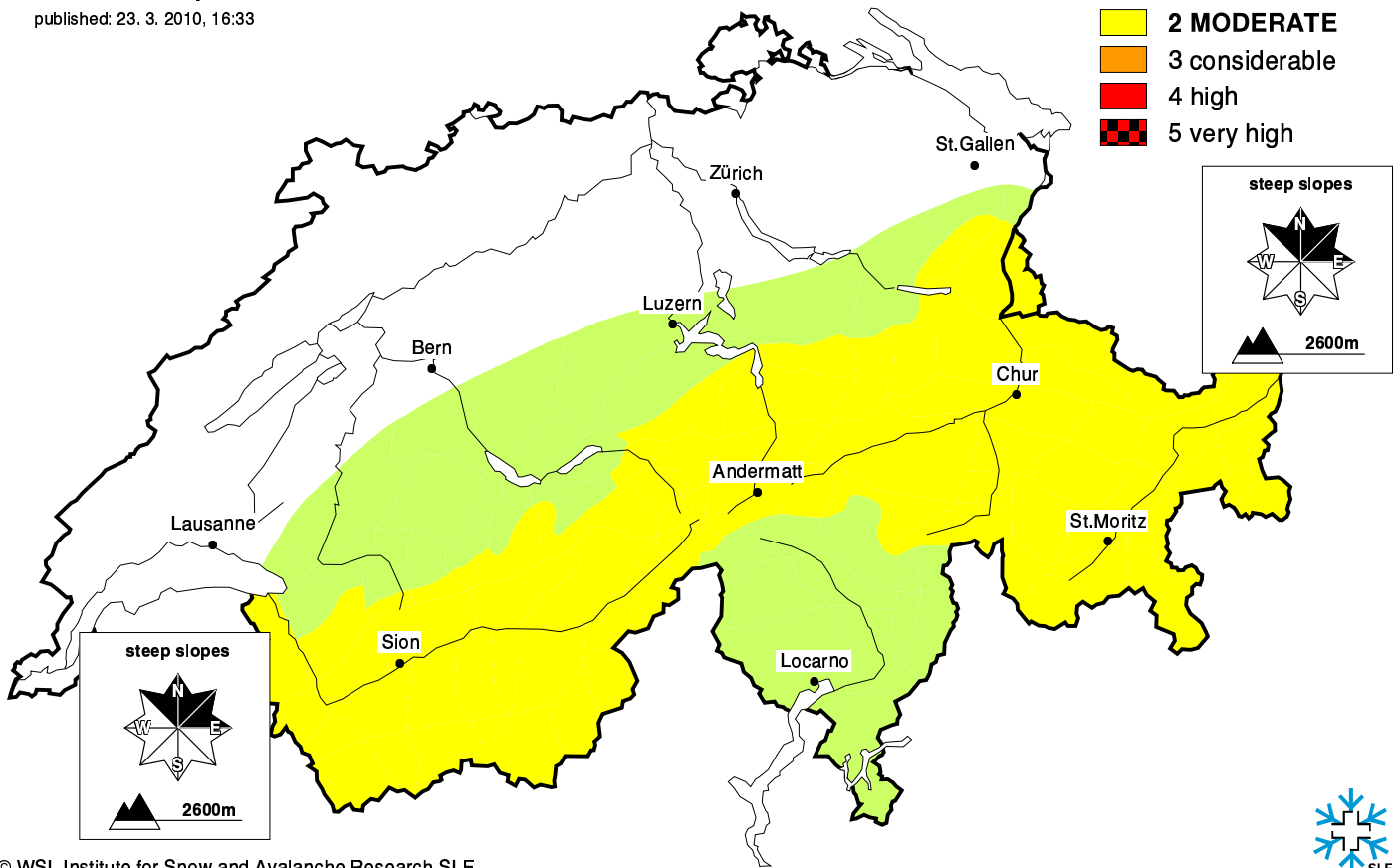
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Wednesday, 24. March 2010

published: 23. 3. 2010, 16:33

Danger level

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



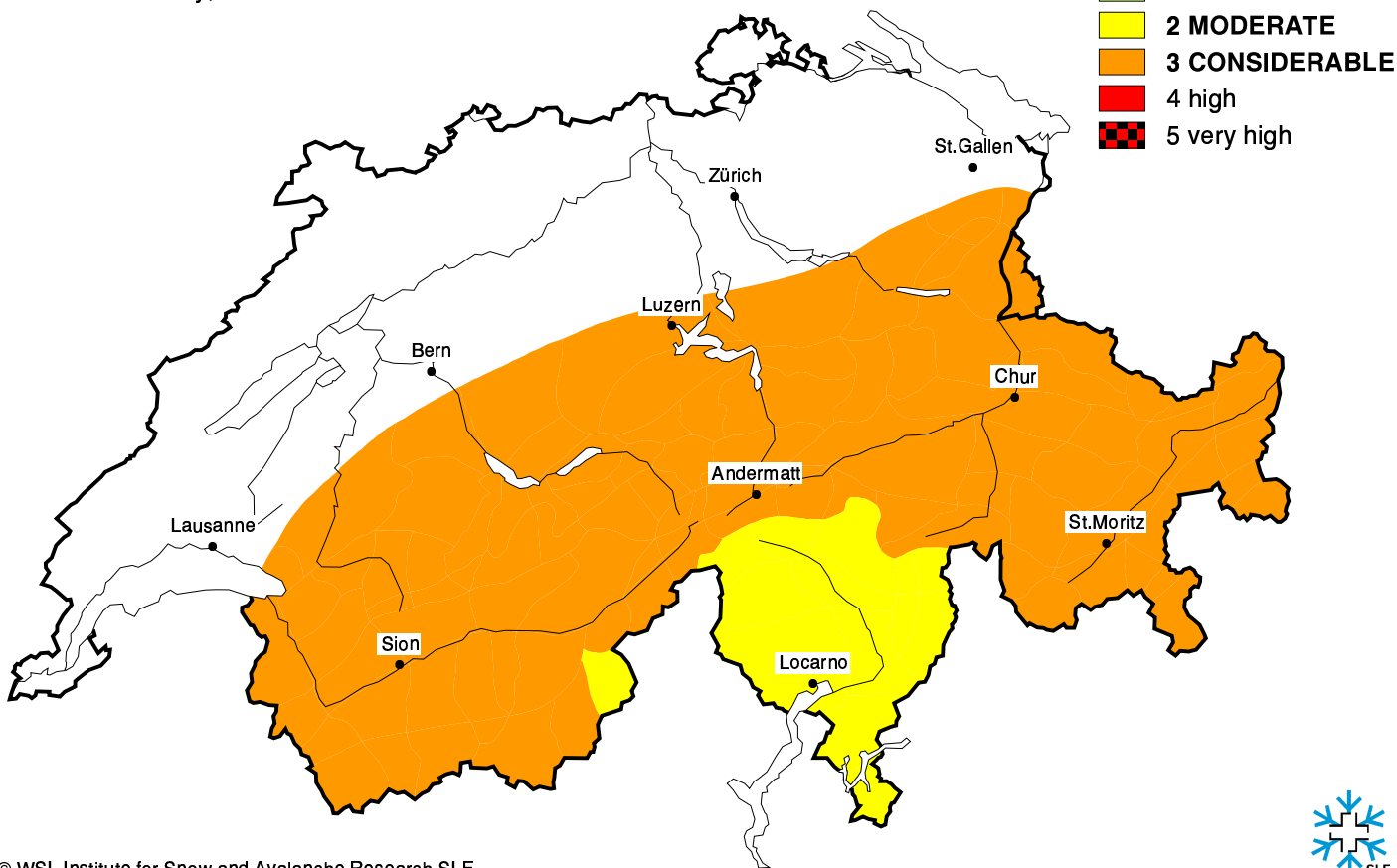
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Wednesday, 24. March 2010

Danger level

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



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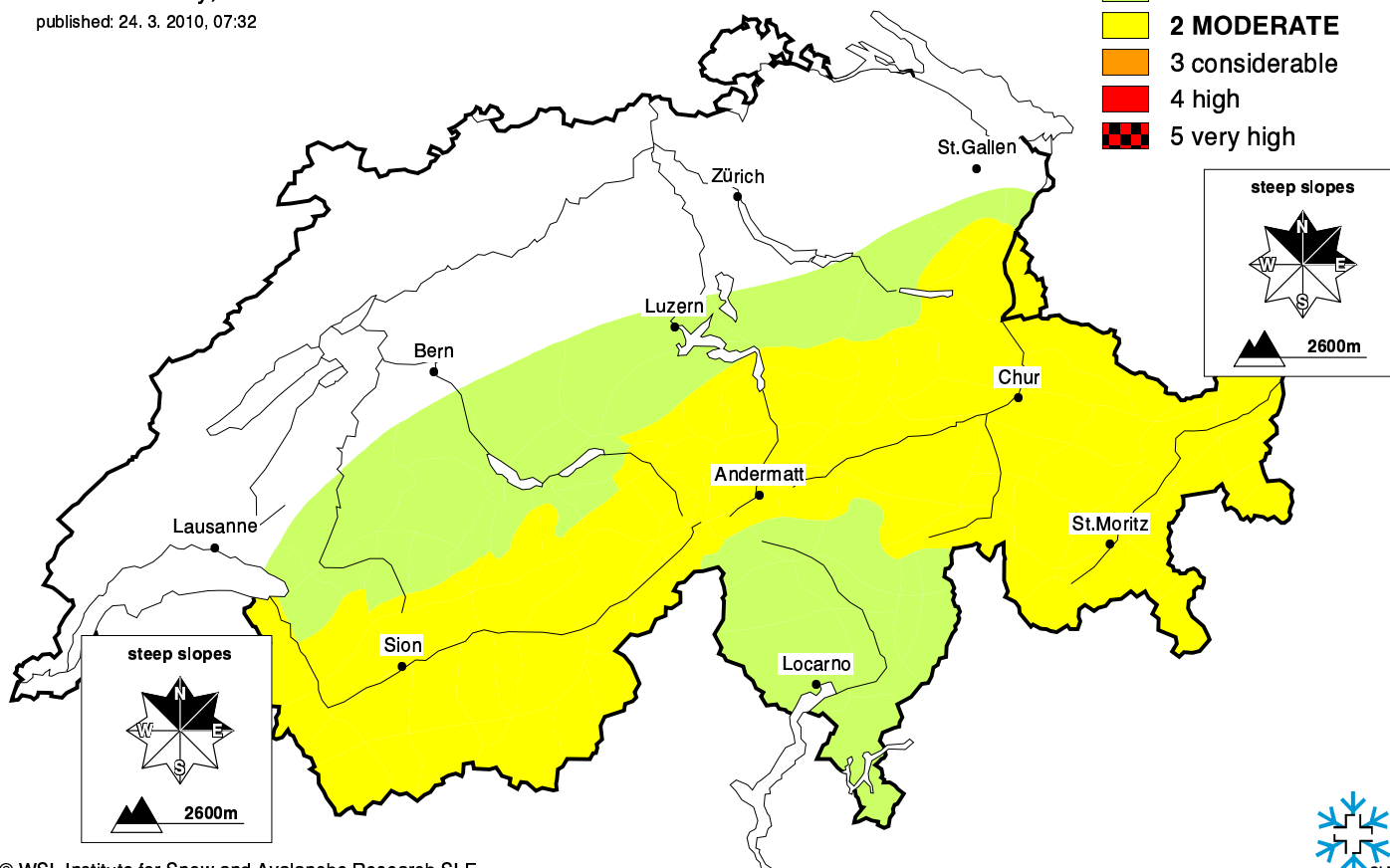
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Wednesday, 24. March 2010

published: 24. 3. 2010, 07:32

Danger level

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



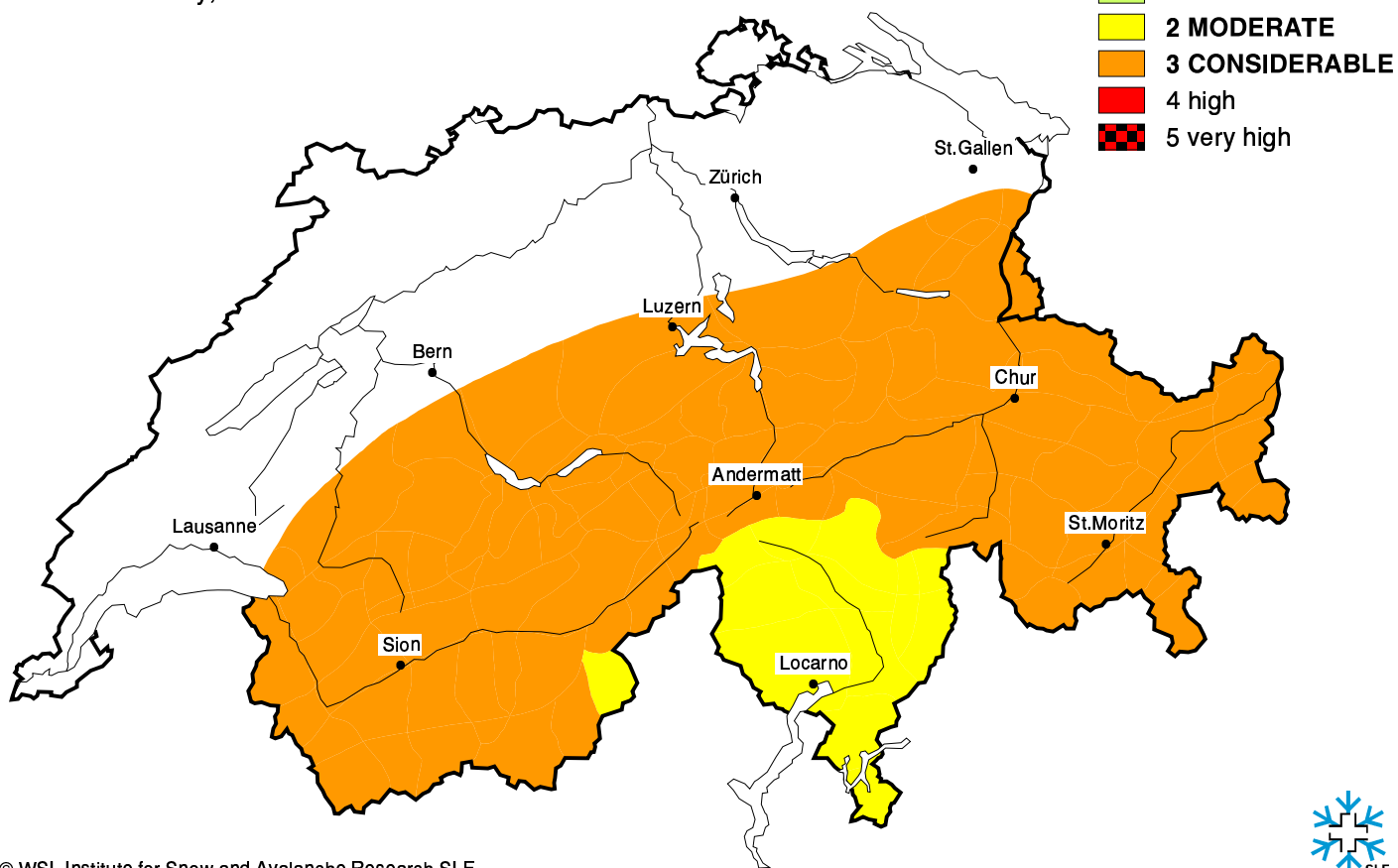
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