

National avalanche bulletin no. 134

for Saturday, 27 March 2010

issue date 26.3.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is considerable widespread

Current conditions

On Friday in northeastern regions, there were bright intervals throughout the morning, elsewhere it was heavily overcast. During the afternoon there was heavy snowfall. Since Thursday in western Ticino there has been 60 to 90 cm of snowfall; on the remaining Main Alpine Ridge from Zermatt into Bergell and in the remaining Ticino there has been 30 to 50 cm of snowfall. Further to the north there was 10 to 30 cm of snowfall widespread. The snowfall level dropped from 2000 down to 1200 m. The midday temperatures were minus 2 degrees in northern regions, zero degrees in southern regions and plus 4 degrees in the furthest eastern regions. A strong to storm-strength southerly wind was blowing; in the afternoon the wind shifted to westerly and slackened off to moderate velocity.

In southern regions, large sized snowdrift accumulations have formed which are prone to triggering. They have been deposited widespread on top of a weak, and below 2500 m moist, old snowpack.

Short-term development

On Saturday in northern regions, conditions will be variable, accompanied by snow showers and, particularly in eastern regions, bright intervals. Maximum 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated in most regions, in western regions as much as 20 cm. The snowfall level will be 1200 m. In southern regions it will be dry and partly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees. A moderate westerly wind will be blowing.

Beneath the fresh fallen snow and the snowdrift, the snowpack up to approximately 2500 m will remain moist and weak.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, excluding the Prealps in both regions; in addition, Chablais; Trient; Champex; Main Alpine Ridge; Flims-Untervaz; central Grisons; Upper Engadine; southern flank of the Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the Main Alpine Ridge from Zermatt to the Bernina Pass and south thereof, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Dry avalanches can fracture and subsequently, below about 2200 m, sweep along the moist old snowpack with them. In addition, below about 2200 m, wet snow avalanches are expected. Exposed sections of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. As soon as the period of precipitation comes to an end in the early part of the night, the frequency of naturally triggered avalanches will decrease. However, conditions for backcountry skiing and freeriding tours remain critical.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in western to northern to southern exposition above approximately 2200 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can easily be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider and should be avoided. Below about 2200 m, avalanches can sweep along the old snowpack, which is wet. Extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative for backcountry tours in outlying terrain.

Prealps; western part of the northern flank of the Alps not including Chablais and not including Grimsel Pass; in addition, remaining Valais; Prättigau; Schanfigg; Davos region; Lower Engadine north of the Inn River:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in western to northern to southern exposition above approximately 2000 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations are relatively small sized in general, but can be easily triggered. They should be avoided through a careful route selection. Below about 2200 m, avalanches can sweep along the old snowpack, which is wet.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday in northern regions, it will be overcast and some intermittent snowfall is anticipated. In southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. In the early morning hours, a strong northwesterly wind will be blowing, later on it will slacken off. On Monday in northern regions, it will be variably cloudy, accompanied by a bit of snowfall. In southern regions it will be increasingly overcast, but remain dry. The avalanche danger is expected to increase slightly in some northern regions. In southern regions, the danger will gradually subside.

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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Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

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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

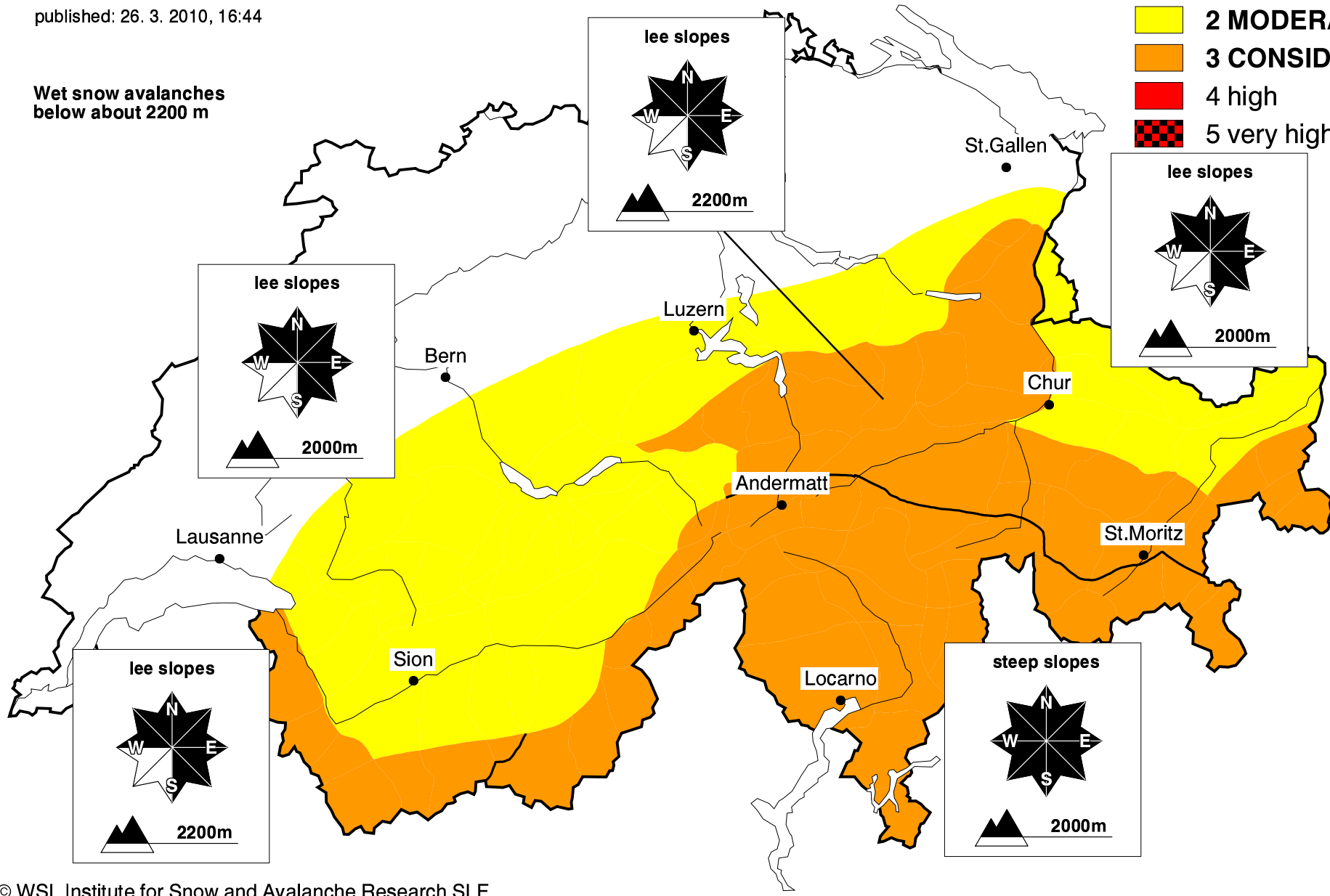
for Saturday, 27. March 2010

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Wet snow avalanches
below about 2200 m

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 27. March 2010

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below about 2200 m

Danger level

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

