

National avalanche bulletin no. 135

for Sunday, 28 March 2010

issue date 27.3.2010, 18:30 hours

The danger of avalanches is considerable widespread

Current conditions

On Friday night, the snowfall slackened off, including in eastern regions. On Saturday in southern regions, it was predominantly sunny. In northern regions it was overcast, accompanied by lengthy sunny intervals and showers as well, particularly in the furthestmost western regions. Since Thursday in the southern and the furthestmost western regions there has been 30 to 50 cm of snowfall, in western Ticino as much as 90 cm. Elsewhere there has been 20 to 40 cm of snowfall widespread, in the Bernese Alps and in central Valais less. The snowfall level dropped from 2000 m down to about 1200 m. On Saturday the midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 2 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. A moderate westerly wind was blowing.

The snow which had fallen by Friday evening has by now settled well at intermediate altitudes. Beneath the fresh fallen snow, the snowpack is moist and weak as far up as approximately 2200 m.

Short-term development

By Sunday morning on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in the Prättigau, 10 to 20 cm of snowfall is expected, locally as much as 30 cm. In the remaining Grisons, less snowfall is anticipated, in southern regions it will remain dry. During the day there will be lengthy bright phases in northern regions, accompanied by scattered showers; whereas in southern regions it will be predominantly sunny. The snowfall level will ascend to 1400 m. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees in northern regions and minus 1 degree in southern regions. A strong northwesterly wind will be blowing Saturday night, during the day on Sunday the wind will be of moderate velocity from westerly directions.

The new fallen snow, and in high alpine regions the old snow as well, will be transported.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps; Lower Valais; 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 the Gotthard region 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. 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 2000 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations cover and conceal the snowfall from Friday, which in many regions is itself still prone to triggering. In all regions of this danger level, even one single backcountry skier or freerider can trigger avalanches. Extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is essential for backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain.

Upper Valais not including the regions of the Main Alpine Ridge; in addition, Prättigau; Schanfigg; Davos region; Lower Engadine north of the Inn River:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. In general, more recently formed snowdrift accumulations tend to be relatively small, but can be easily triggered in many places. They should, by devising a careful route selection, be avoided.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, in case of strong solar radiation, moist snowslides are expected up to high altitudes. Furthermore, below about 2200 m, isolated avalanches in the wet old snowpack are possible.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday in northern regions, it will be variably cloudy; in southern regions it will be heavily overcast. A bit of snowfall is anticipated. Particularly in northern regions, temperatures will rise. On Tuesday in northeastern regions, it will remain sunny and mild until evening, amidst foehn winds. In southern regions snowfall is expected above 1600 m. The peril of dry avalanches will recede to begin with, then escalate again in southern regions on Tuesday. In northern regions, the hazards of wet snow avalanches will increase.

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)

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

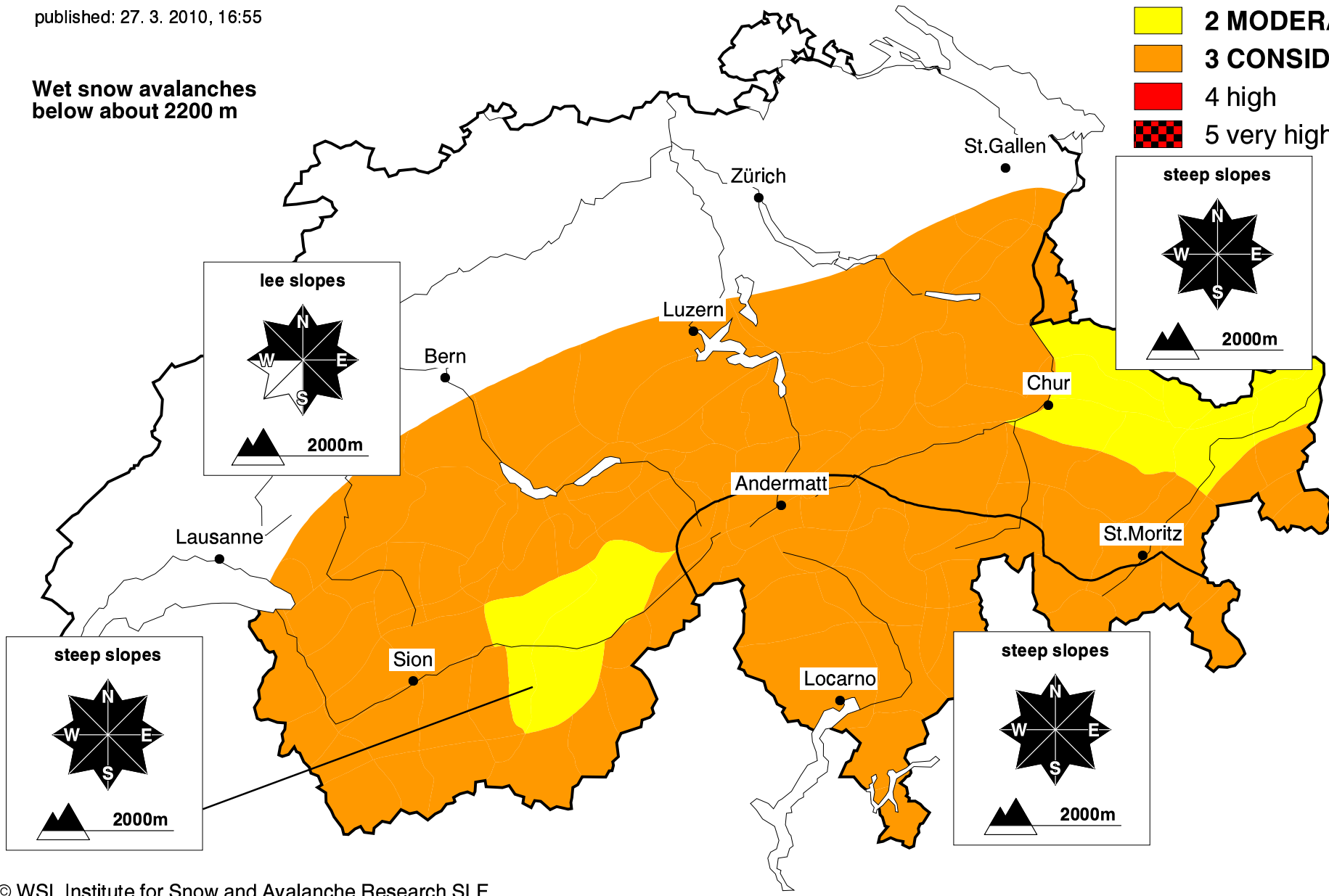
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Wet snow avalanches
below about 2200 m

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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below about 2200 m

Danger level

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-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
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