

National avalanche bulletin no. 140

for Friday, 2 April 2010

issue date 1.4.2010, 18:30 hours

Deep wintery conditions amidst considerable avalanche danger widespread

Current conditions

On Thursday it was overcast and there was 10 to 20 cm of snowfall widespread, in northern Ticino and in the Rheinwald as much as 40 cm. During the afternoon there were isolated bright intervals in western regions. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 7 degrees in northern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions. A moderate southerly wind was blowing, and subsequently shifted to northwesterly.

The snow which has fallen since Wednesday is continuing to settle and consolidate. The new fallen snow and snowdrift from Thursday are still inadequately bonded with the old snowpack. Snowdrift accumulations increase both in frequency and in size with ascending altitude. The snow layering is generally fragile, with the exception of the furthestmost western regions and on the southern flank of the Alps; the layering is poorest in the inneralpine regions. Beneath the fresh fallen snow and snowdrift from the last few days, the snowpack remains moist and weak up to altitudes of about 2200 m.

Short-term development

On Thursday night in eastern regions, the last bit of snowfall is expected. During the day on Good Friday, it will be variably overcast; conditions will be somewhat more pleasant in eastern and southern regions than in the west. It will remain dry. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 5 degrees. A southwesterly wind of light to moderate velocity will be blowing.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Vaud and Fribourg Alps; northern Alpine Ridge; Valais; northern and central Ticino; Grisons not including the regions of Prättigau, Silvretta, Samnaun:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the Main Alpine Ridge from the Gotthard region to the Bernina region, in northern Ticino and in the Puschlav, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider, particularly in fresh snowdrift and in those transition areas into gullies and bowls where the snow is relatively shallow. In addition, in the indicated regions of central Grisons more than anywhere else, avalanches can fracture inside the old snowpack.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. The snowdrift masses can be unleashed as avalanches even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. In isolated cases, fractures are also possible deep inside the old snowpack, particularly in the inneralpine regions.

In all regions of this danger level, extensive experience in spotting and evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative.

Bernese Oberland not including the regions of the northern Alpine Ridge; in addition, central and eastern Prealps; Prättigau; Silvretta; Samnaun; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered. They tend to remain relatively small sized, however. The frequency of danger zones increases with ascending altitude.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, wet avalanches are possible in isolated cases below about 2200 m, particularly amidst solar radiation.

Trend for Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday

On Holy Saturday, foehn wind influence is expected. In northern regions, temperatures will rise, in western and southern regions, precipitation will set in. On Easter Sunday, snowfall is anticipated in western and southern regions in particular. The avalanche danger will escalate especially on Easter Sunday. Easter weekend backcountry tours lasting several days should be planned with great care.

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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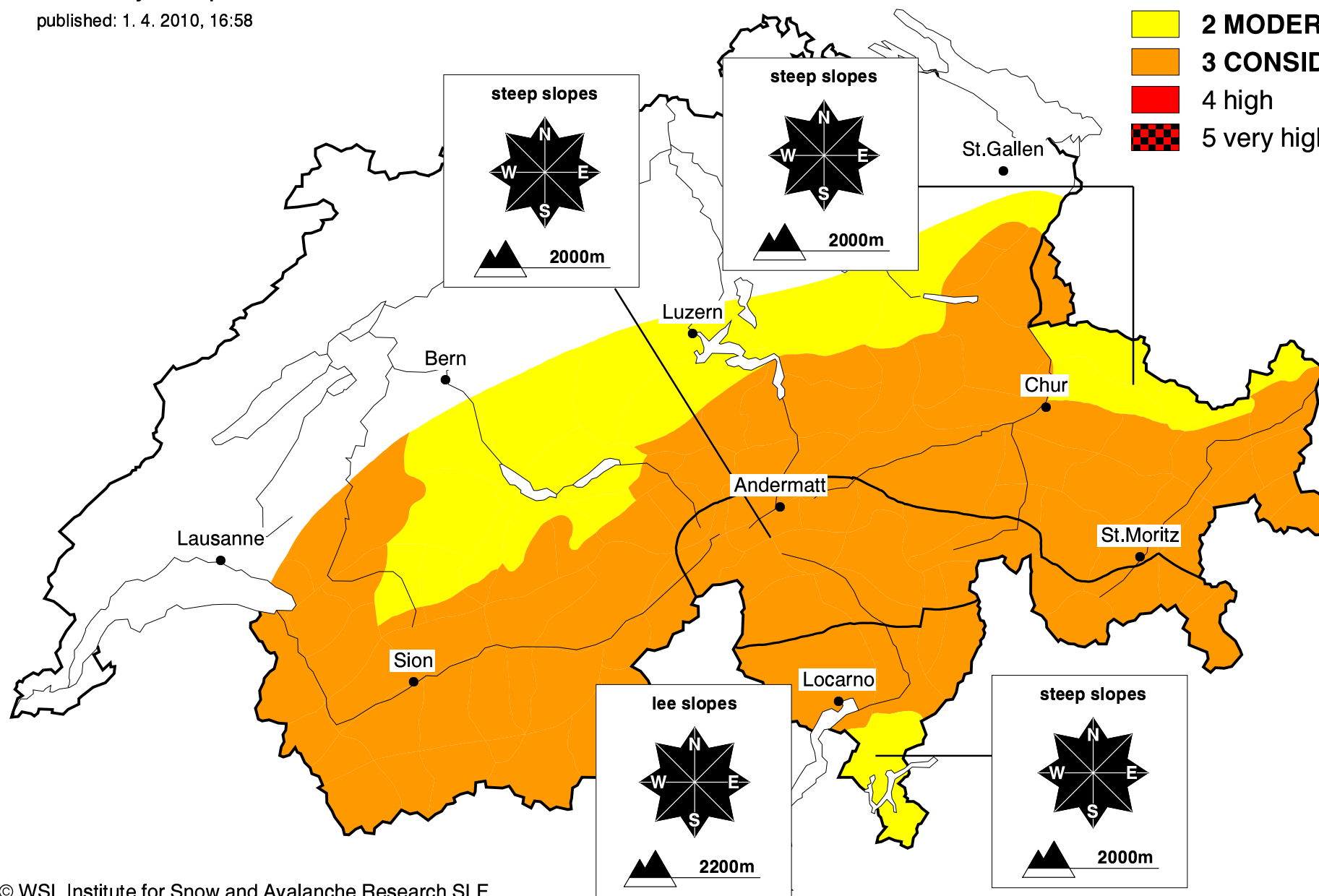
Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 2. April 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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

