

National avalanche bulletin no. 144

for Tuesday, 6 April 2010

issue date 5.4.2010, 18:30 hours

Significant temperature increase – widespread considerable avalanche danger

Current conditions

From the evening of Holy Saturday until Easter Monday, 40 to 70 cm of snow fell in eastern Ticino, Val Calanca, Val Moesa, Bergell and Puschlav. In Chablais, western Ticino, Central Switzerland, the Glarus Alps and northern and central Ticino, 20 to 40 cm of snow fell over a wide area, but less snow fell elsewhere. The indicated quantities are those measured at high altitude. Larger quantities may have fallen in the high Alpine regions. In Ticino, the weather had already brightened up during the night of Easter Sunday. In the west and Valais in particular, it became increasingly sunny during the day. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 7 degrees in the north and minus 2 degrees in the central Ticino. On the northern Alpine ridge and main Alpine ridge, and in northern Ticino and northern and central Grisons, the northerly wind was mostly moderate, but it was light elsewhere.

The fresh snow and snow drift accumulations have not yet bonded sufficiently well with the old snowpack. At high altitudes, the fresh snow is loosely bonded over a wide area. In the deeper layers, the snow is moist and soft below approximately 2200 m. Except in the far west and on the southern flank of the Alps, the snowpack is generally weakly bonded. The bonding is weakest in the inneralpine regions.

Short-term development

After a clear Monday night that will be cold in the valley bottoms in particular, the weather will be sunny in all regions. The air temperature will increase significantly. At midday at 2000 m, it will be about plus 4 degrees in the north and plus 2 degrees in the south. In the evening, the freezing level will be just below 3000 m. The wind will be light from the north.

The significant warming will destabilise the near-surface layers of the snowpack during the day.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Vaud Alps and western Bernese Oberland, in each case excluding the prealps; also the northern Alpine ridge from Chablais to the St. Gallen Oberland; Valais; Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are steep slopes of all aspects. They are to be found above approximately 2000 m in the relevant regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, Bergell and Puschlav, and above approximately 2200 m in Valais, northern and central Grisons, Engadine and Münstertal. Avalanches can be triggered, mostly in near-surface layers of the snowpack, by a single person. Especially in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in southern Lower Engadine and Münstertal, avalanches can even penetrate the weakly bonded old snow and reach medium size. The significant warming will increase the likelihood of avalanche triggering in all regions. Natural avalanches can also occur, in particular in the Glarus Alps, Grisons and Ticino.

Extensive experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger is required.

Prealps; eastern Bernese Oberland excluding regions on the northern Alpine ridge; also the Alpstein region and Liechtenstein:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Older snow drift accumulations in particular can be released easily in some places, but are generally small. They are to be avoided by way of careful route selection. In these regions as well, the likelihood of avalanche triggering will increase a little during the day.

In all regions, wet snow slides and avalanches are to be expected during the day below approximately 2400 m and at all altitudes in rocky areas. These conditions are to be found on steep south facing slopes in particular. Backcountry touring is to be commenced and concluded early.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Wednesday will be mostly sunny and mild. On Thursday in the north, the weather will be changeable with precipitation at times. The temperature will decrease appreciably again. It will remain quite sunny in the south. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. On Wednesday in particular, the danger of wet snow avalanches will vary during the day.






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)		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: lwp@slf.ch Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88
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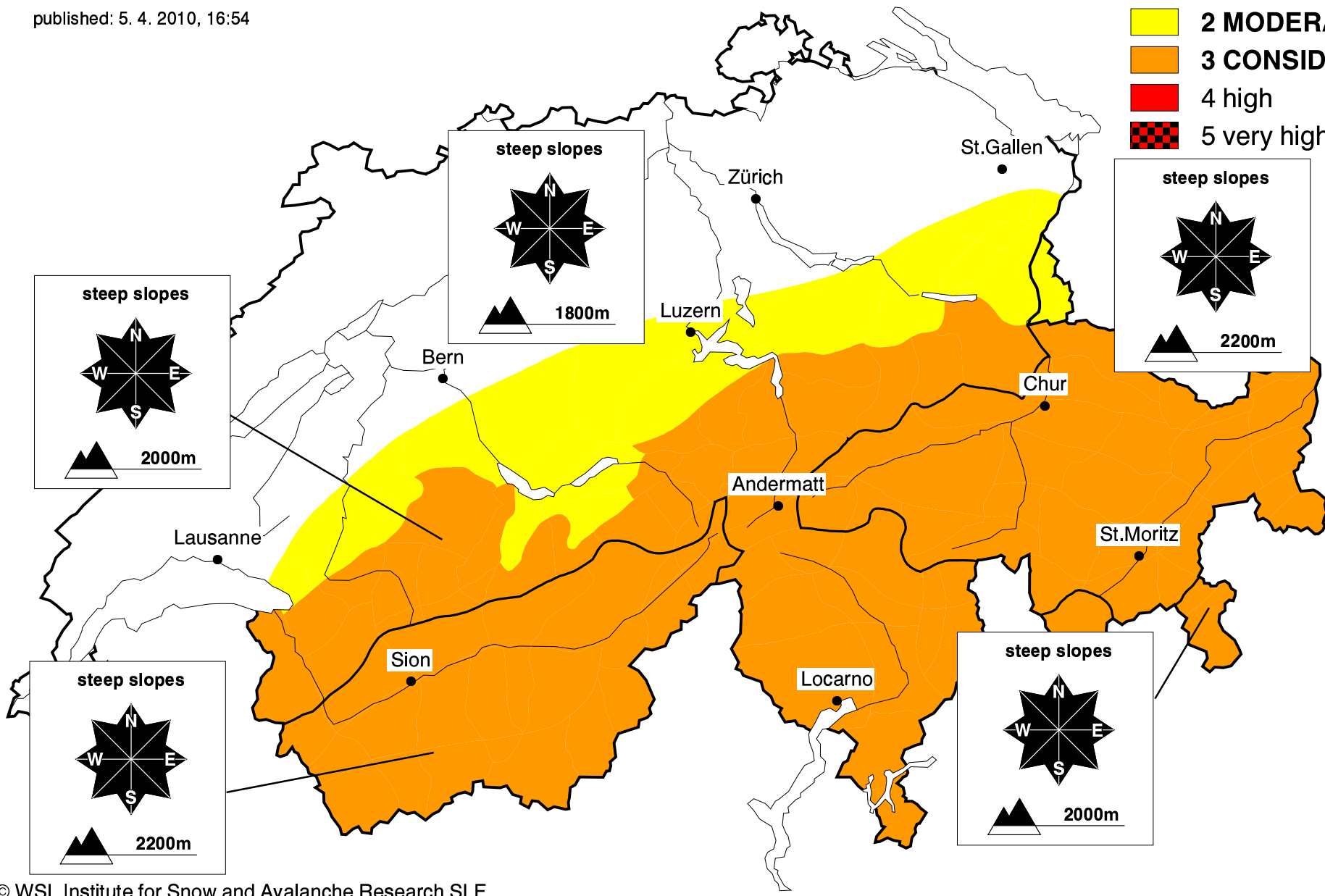
Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 6. April 2010

published: 5. 4. 2010, 16:54

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 6. April 2010

published: 6. 4. 2010, 07:50

Danger level

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

