

National avalanche bulletin no. 162

for Saturday, 24 April 2010

issue date 23.4.2010, 18:30 hours

Rapidly increasing danger of wet snow avalanches over the course of the day

Current conditions

On Friday it was overcast, amidst bright intervals in northeastern regions in particular. In southern regions above approximately 2100 m, there was a few centimeters of snowfall from place to place. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between plus 7 degrees in northern regions and plus 2 degrees in southern regions. Light winds were blowing.

On north facing slopes, the snowline lies at about 1500 m widespread; in northern Ticino, at about 1200 m; in the Valais and in Lower Engadine, at about 1800 m. On south facing slopes, the snowline lies about 400 m higher.

Short-term development

On Friday night, the skies will clear up in northern regions to begin with, subsequently in southern regions as well. During the day on Saturday, it will be sunny, accompanied by convective cloud build-up during the afternoon. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 7 degrees in northern regions and plus 5 degrees in southern regions. The freezing level will rise towards 3000 m. Light winds will prevail.

In those places of northern regions where the skies clear up relatively soon, the snowpack at high altitudes will form a crust capable of bearing loads, which will lead to quite favourable conditions prevailing in the early morning hours.

Due to persistently high temperatures, the risk of fractures in the old snowpack is expected to increase on north facing slopes in particular. This is especially the case in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in southern Valais, where the snow layering between 2200 m and 3000 m is fragile in places.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Southern Valais from Val d'Héremence into the Saastal; Urseren; inneralpine regions of Grisons; central Grisons not including northern Surselva:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in northwestern to northern to northeastern exposition above approximately 2400 m. In isolated cases, avalanches can fracture deep down in the old snowpack and subsequently attain medium size. Particularly on steep, north facing slopes, maintaining distances between persons to relieve loads and one-at-a-time descents are recommended.

In high alpine regions more than anywhere else, older snowdrift accumulations can in isolated cases still be triggered. The sliding snow masses remain generally small in size. Apart from the peril of being buried by released snow masses, caution is also urged towards the hazards of being swept along and falling.

Remaining regions of the Swiss Alps:

Low danger of dry avalanches (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily at higher altitudes in very steep terrain. The proliferation of avalanche prone locations increases with ascending altitude. Apart from the peril of being buried by sliding snow masses, special caution is urged towards the hazard of being swept along and falling.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet snow avalanches will reach the level "considerable" (Level 3) over the course of the day. On north facing slopes below about 2400 m, and in the other expositions below about 3000 m, moist and wet avalanches even of medium size are expected. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, as well as ascents to huts, should be brought to a close early in the day.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday morning, following a partially clear night, it is expected to be quite sunny. Over the course of the day, however, convective cloud will swiftly build up and showers are anticipated. On Monday, weather conditions will be variable. On Sunday morning at high altitudes, quite favourable conditions will prevail, thereafter the hazards of wet snow avalanches will rapidly escalate. On Monday, the peril of dry avalanches may well increase somewhat from region to region.

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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-- North and Central Grisons
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-- Bernese Oberland
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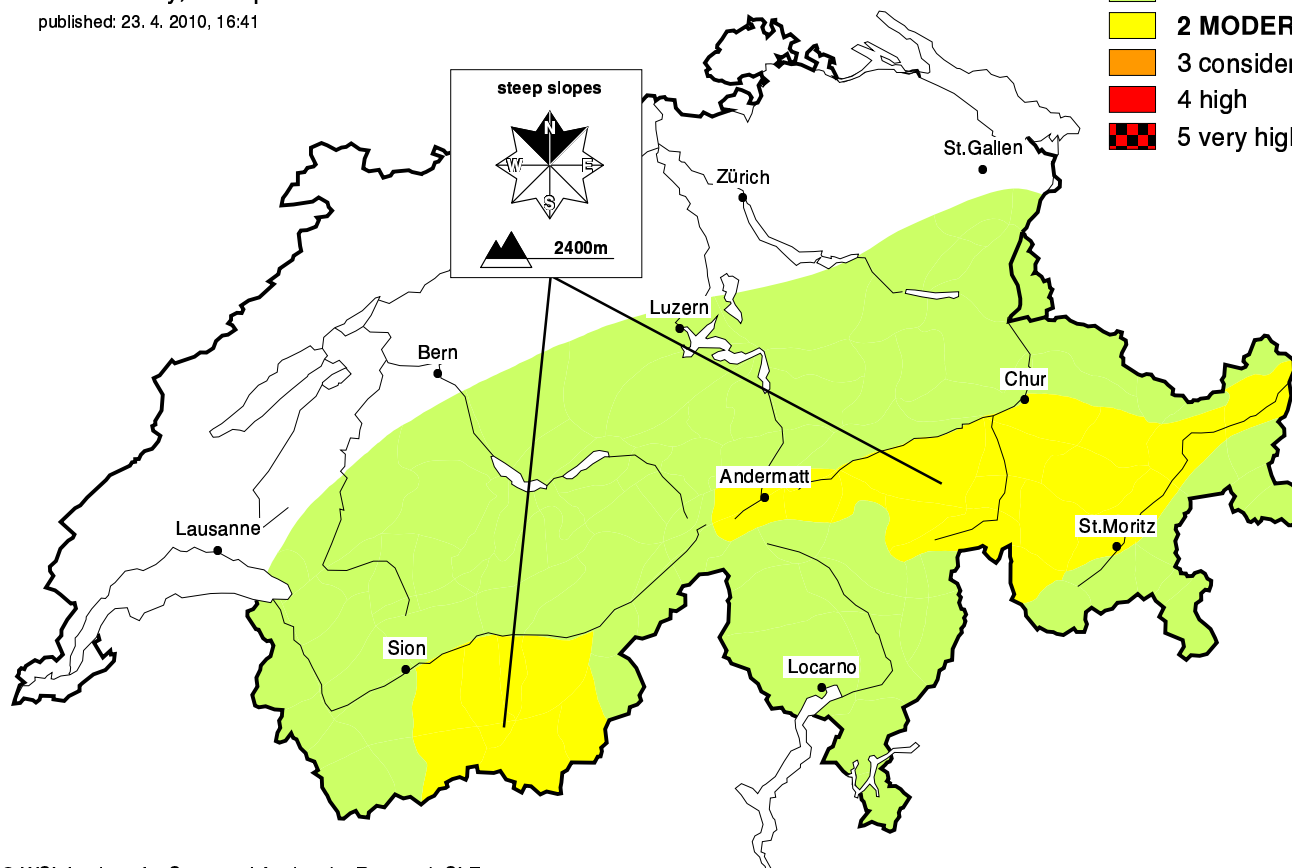
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 24. April 2010

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Danger level

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



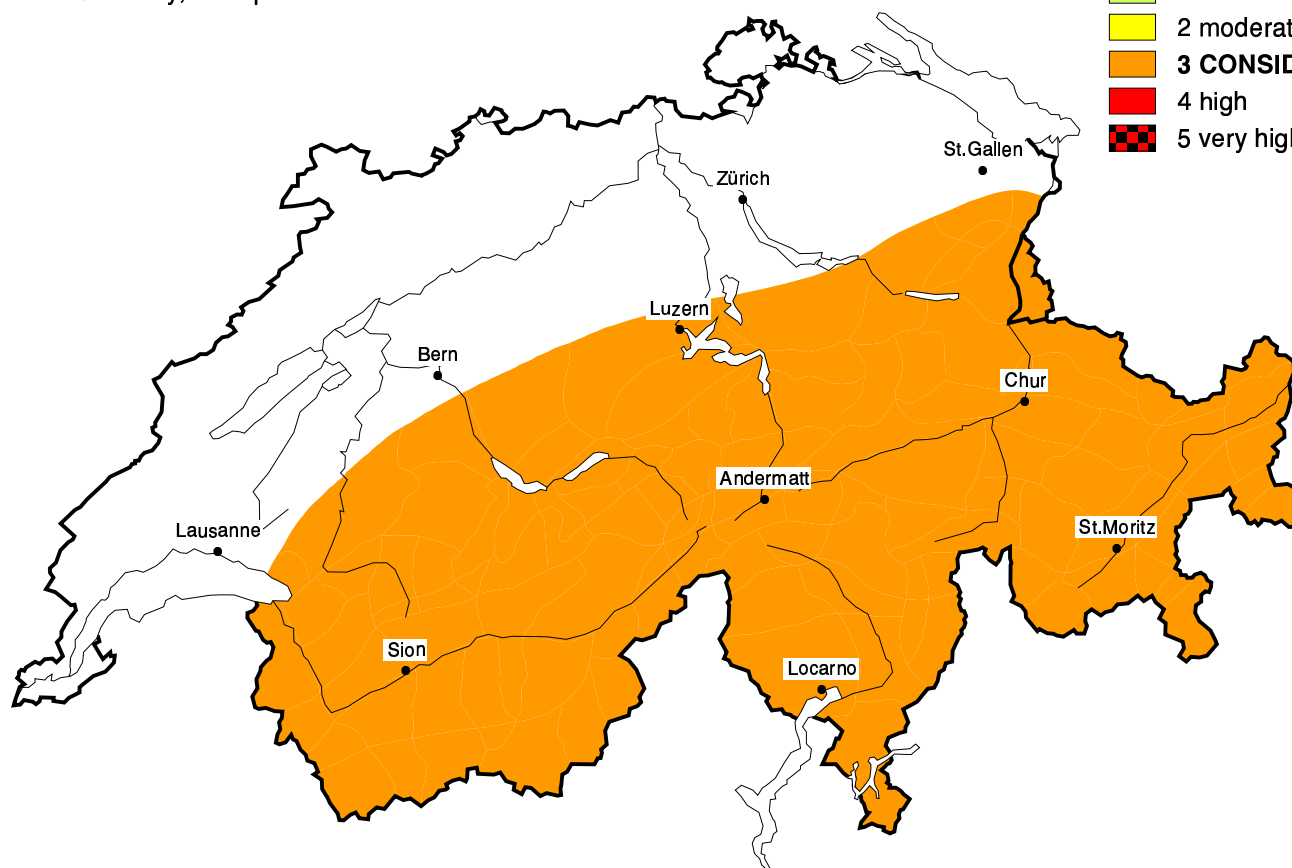
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Saturday, 24. April 2010

Danger level

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



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