

National avalanche bulletin no. 163

for Sunday, 25 April 2010

issue date 24.4.2010, 18:30 hours

Wet snow avalanche danger, already over the course of the morning hours

Current conditions

On Friday night, the skies cleared up everywhere in the Swiss Alps except in southern regions. On Saturday it was predominantly sunny, amidst convective cloud build-up over the course of the day. The midday temperatures at 2000 m increased to plus 8 degrees in northern regions and plus 5 degrees in southern regions. A light wind was blowing. The thin crust on the snowpack surface rapidly softened, and a great many moist and wet avalanches were subsequently triggered. Particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons and in southern Valais, the snow layering on north facing slopes between 2200 m and 3000 m is fragile in places. Because of the persistently high temperatures, there is higher risk of fractures deep down in the old snowpack in those regions.

Short-term development

Following a generally clear night, it will be sunny on Sunday morning. Over the course of the day, convective cloud is expected to build up, accompanied by local rain showers. A light wind will be blowing. 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 be at 3000 m. At high altitudes, the snow surface will freeze and form a crust largely capable of bearing loads; thus, in the early morning hours, quite favourable touring conditions will prevail. Through the warmth and the solar radiation, the crust will soften even during the morning hours up to high altitudes, which will lead to the danger of wet avalanches swiftly escalating, also on north facing slopes.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Southern Valais from Val d'Hérémence into the Saastal; 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.

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 extremely steep terrain. 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 morning hours. On north facing slopes below about 2400 m, and in the other aspects below about 3000 m, moist and wet avalanches even of medium size are expected. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours should be brought to a close very early.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Sunday night it will be generally clear. On Monday, weather conditions will be variable, amidst sunny intervals during the morning in southern regions in particular, accompanied by showers in the latter part of the day in northern regions in particular. On Tuesday, sunshine will quickly dominate the weather, spreading from the west. The peril of wet snow avalanches will persist. The danger of dry avalanches may well increase somewhat in high alpine regions on the northern flank of the Alps in particular.

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
-- South Grisons
-- Bernese Oberland
-- Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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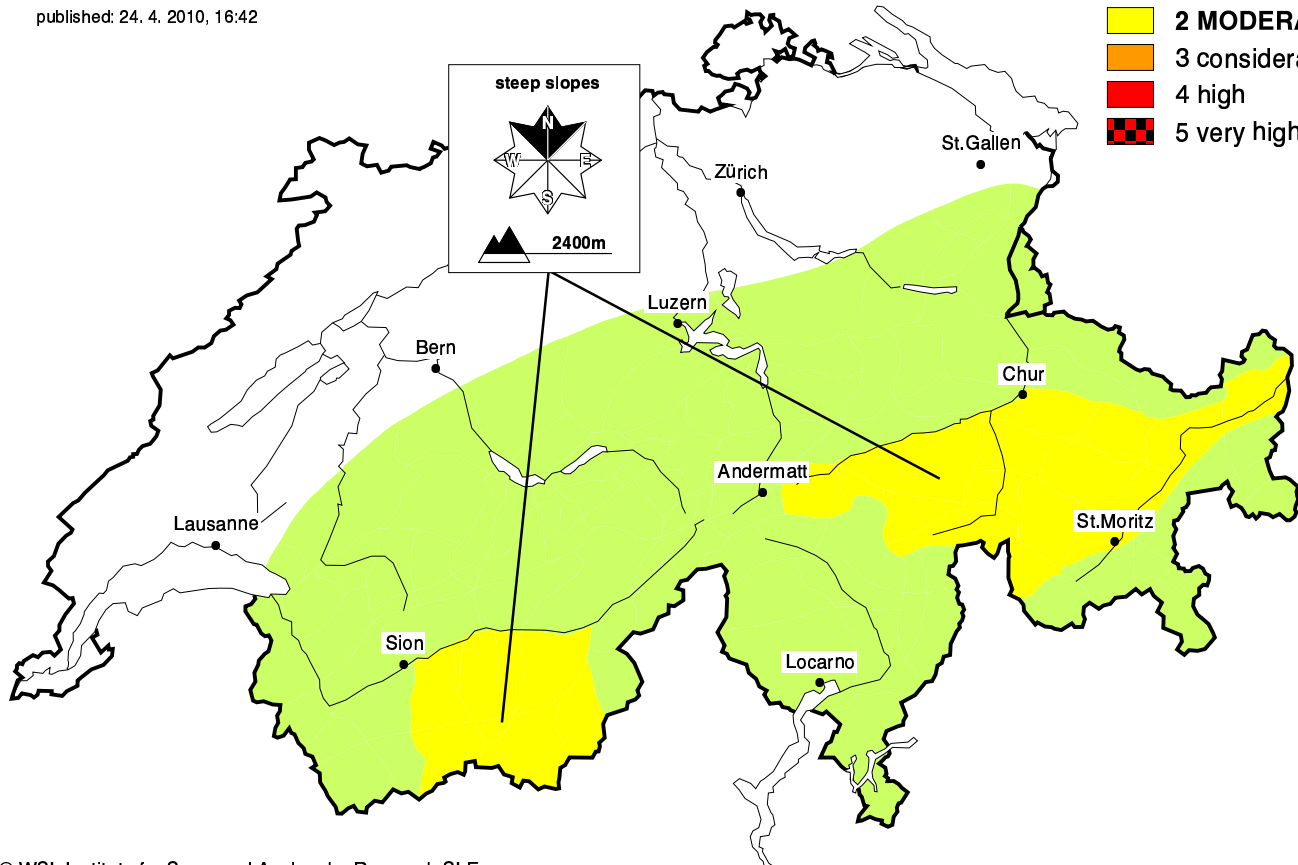
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Sunday, 25. April 2010

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Danger level

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



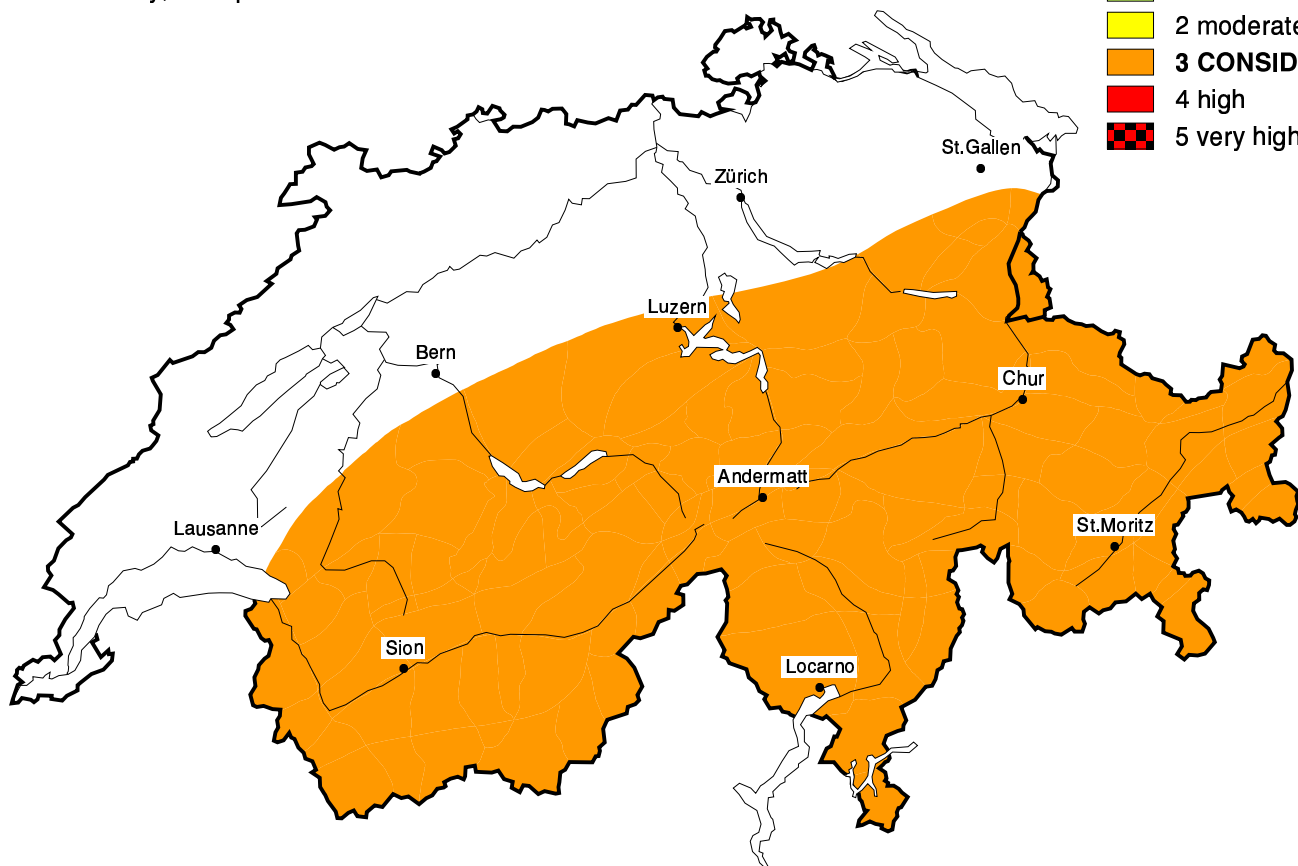
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Sunday, 25. April 2010

Danger level

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



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