

National avalanche bulletin no. 33

for Saturday, 11 December 2010

issue date 10.12.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is considerable in widespread regions

Current conditions

On Friday in the furthest western regions it was heavily overcast, accompanied by short bright spells. In central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, it was sunny. Since Thursday evening in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Prättigau, the snowfall has amounted to 15 to 30 cm. All in all, over the last two days there have been the following amounts of new fallen snow: northern flank of the Alps east of Lake Brienz not including the Gotthard region and additionally in Prättigau, 20 to 40 cm; elsewhere, 10 to 20 cm of fresh fallen snow widespread; on the southern flank of the Alps only a few centimeters. On Friday, the midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 11 degrees in northern regions and minus 6 degrees in southern regions. Very gusty, light to moderate northerly winds were blowing in the furthest western regions, elsewhere the winds were moderate to strong.

At intermediate altitudes, the old snowpack is thoroughly wet due to the rainfall at the beginning of the week. At high altitudes it is highly varied and irregular. The more recently formed, in some places deep layers of snowdrift are poorly bonded to one another, making them easy to trigger. At altitudes above 2200 m to 2400 m, loosely packed layers of faceted snow crystals are evident inside the old snowpack from place to place.

Short-term development

On Saturday in southern regions it will be predominantly sunny, in the Valais intermittently so. On the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons it will be heavily overcast and some snowfall is anticipated. Over the course of the day it is expected to clear up in northwestern regions. By Saturday afternoon in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, maximum 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated; from Prättigau into the Samnaun as much as 20 cm of new fallen snow. The temperatures are expected to rise slightly; at midday it will be minus 3 degrees in western and southern regions and minus 5 degrees in eastern regions. The northerly wind will continue to blow at light to moderate strength in the furthest western regions, elsewhere at moderate to strong velocity widespread. The winds will transport the fresh fallen snow in particular.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, and additionally, in the Prättigau, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. The layers of snowdrift can be easily triggered in some areas. Naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases.

In the Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. Those layers of snowdrift deposited over the last few days can be easily triggered. In some places, avalanches can also fracture down in the old snowpack. Naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases, particularly in the Upper Valais.

In Urseren, in northern Ticino and in Grisons not including Prättigau, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. The layers of snowdrift from the last few days, more than anything else, are prone to triggering. Particularly in northern Grisons and in the Silvretta and in Samnaun, naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases.

In all the regions of these danger levels, avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Extensive experience in evaluating avalanche hazards is essential.

Western part of the northern flank of the Alps; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. The generally small sized snowdrift accumulations from the last few days are prone to triggering in some areas and should be evaluated with great care. With ascending altitude, the avalanche prone locations become more numerous.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

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)

Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss

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)

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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: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88



On Sunday in northern regions, it will be predominantly cloudy. In inneralpine regions it will be partly sunny, in southern regions generally so. On Monday in northern regions, snowfall is anticipated and temperatures are expected to drop. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it will be sunny. The avalanche danger will recede slightly on Sunday, then on Monday in northern regions will escalate again.

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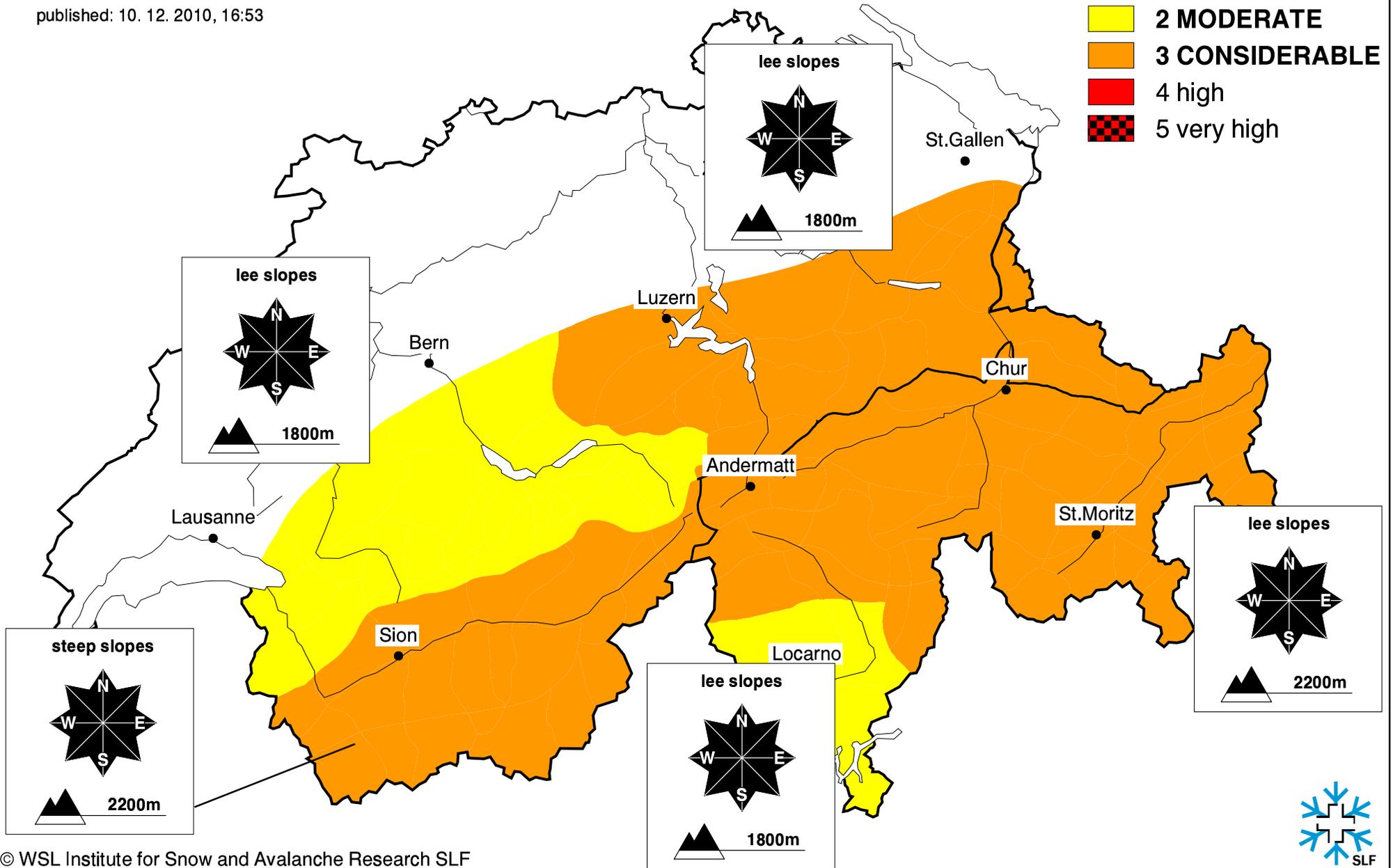
Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 11. December 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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