

National avalanche bulletin no. 34

for Sunday, 12 December 2010

issue date 11.12.2010, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is both considerable and moderate

Current conditions

On Saturday in western regions it was partly sunny, south of the Main Alpine Ridge mostly so. In northern and eastern regions, it was generally overcast. Since Friday evening in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, in northern Grisons and in the Engadine north of the Inn River, there has been 10 to 20 cm of snowfall; from Prättigau to Samnaun and in Davos, 30 to 40 cm of fresh fallen snow. In the remaining regions there was about 5 cm of new fallen snow. South of the Main Alpine Ridge it remained dry. Since Wednesday evening, there have been the following amounts of snowfall: central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, northern Grisons, Lower Engadine north of the Inn, 30 to 50 cm, from place to place as much as 60 cm; western part of the northern flank of the Alps, Valais, Gotthard region and remaining Engadine, 10 to 30 cm; on the southern flank of the Alps only a few centimeters. The midday temperatures at 2000 m on Saturday were between zero degrees in western regions, minus 3 degrees in eastern regions and plus 3 degrees in southern regions. The westerly to northwesterly wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity in the furthestmost western regions, elsewhere moderate to strong.

At intermediate altitudes, the old snowpack is thoroughly wet due to the rainfall from the beginning of the week. At high altitudes, it is highly varied and irregular. The more recently formed layers of snowdrift are poorly bonded to one another in some areas, 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 Sunday in southern regions it will be predominantly sunny, in western regions intermittently so. On the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, it will be generally cloudy and up to 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated. Over the course of the day, the temperatures are expected to drop. At 2000 m at midday, it will be minus 5 degrees in western and southern regions and minus 8 degrees in eastern regions. The northwesterly to northerly wind will continue to blow at light to moderate velocity in the furthestmost western regions, elsewhere at moderate to strong velocity widespread.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps; Upper Valais; Grisons not including Val Calanca and not including Val Moesa:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, in addition from Prättigau over the Silvretta into the Samnaun, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m.

In the Upper Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m.

In Urseren and in the remaining indicated regions of Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m.

In all the regions of this danger level, it is particularly the layers of snowdrift which have accumulated over the last few days which can be easily triggered in some areas. Avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. In isolated cases, avalanches can fracture down in the old snowpack, especially in Upper Valais. Extensive experience in evaluating avalanche hazards is essential.

Western part of the northern flank of the Alps; Lower Valais; Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, in Ticino as well as in Val Calanca and in Val Moesa, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. In Lower Valais, the danger zones are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. The snowdrift accumulations of the last few days are trigger sensitive in some places and should be evaluated with great care. In isolated cases, avalanches can fracture down inside the old snowpack, particularly in Lower Valais. With ascending altitude, the avalanche prone locations tend to become more frequent. In high alpine regions, the avalanche danger is "considerable" (Level 3).

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On both days it will be predominantly overcast in northern regions. In the Valais it will be intermittently sunny, on the southern flank of the Alps generally so. In the eastern regions, snowfall is anticipated. The northerly wind will cause temperatures to drop significantly. The avalanche danger is not expected to change appreciably.

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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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

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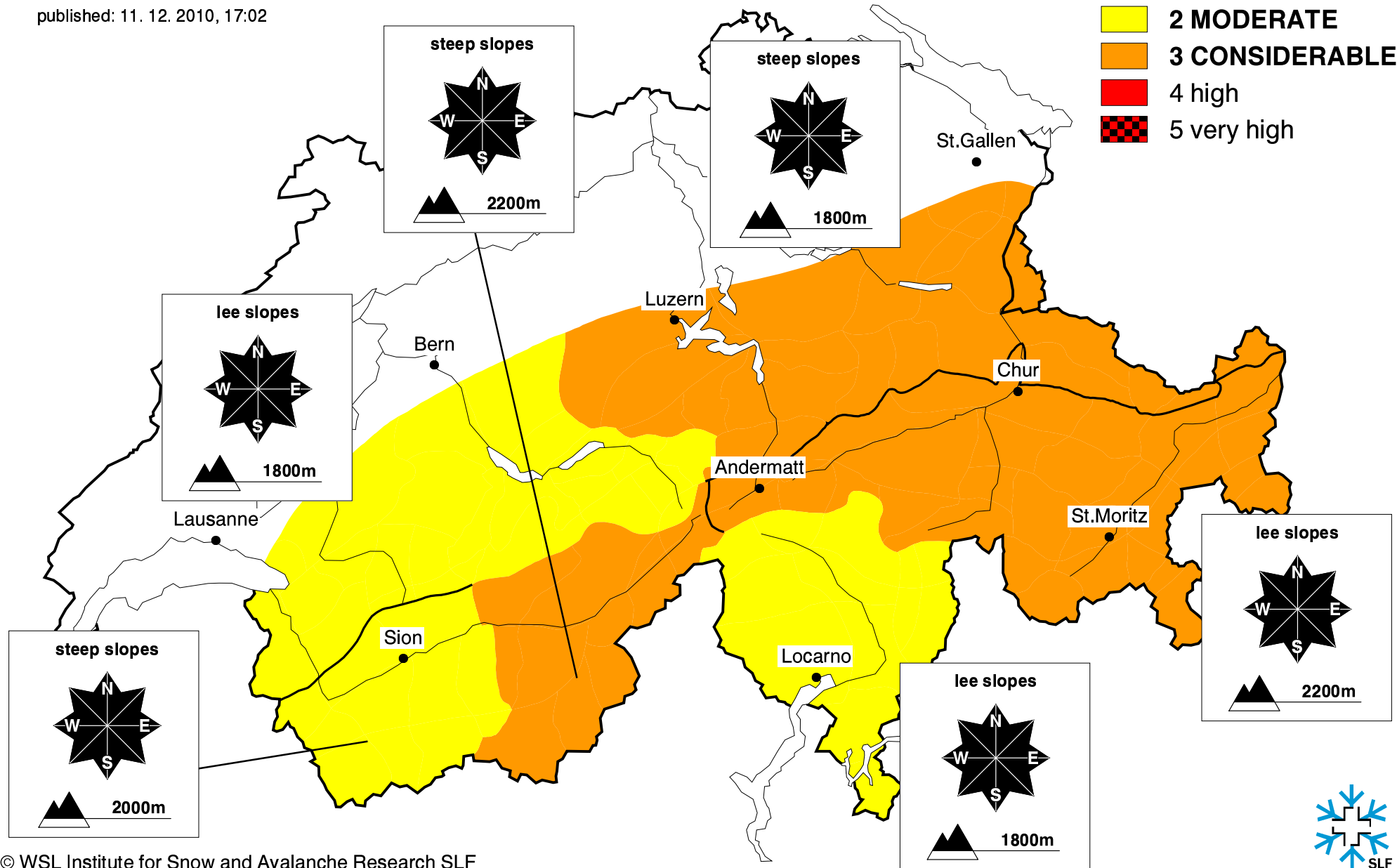
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 12. December 2010

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 12. December 2010

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Danger level

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

