

National avalanche bulletin no. 39

for Friday, 17 December 2010

issue date 16.12.2010, 18:30 hours

Snowfall and storm velocity winds intermittently at high altitudes

Current conditions

On Thursday it was sunny widespread in the Swiss Alps. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 10 and minus 15 degrees. The wind from generally northerly directions was light to moderate in velocity.

The snow depths at 2000 m are as follows: 80 to 120 cm in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Ticino; 50 to 80 cm in the western Lower Valais, in central Switzerland and in Grisons; 20 to 50 cm in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in extensive sectors of the Valais.

In many areas, old crusts are embedded inside the snowpack, with highly varied snowdrift layers deposited on top of them. In the Valais, the central section of the snowpack is poorly consolidated in some areas. In general, the snowpack tends only slightly towards extensive failure layers.

Short-term development

On Thursday night, snowfall is expected to set in from the west. By evening on Friday, the following amounts of new fallen snow are anticipated: northern flank of the Alps and western part of Lower Valais 15 to 30 cm; remaining Valais, northern and central Grisons, Lower Engadine 10 to 20 cm; remaining regions 5 to 10 cm. The snowfall will be accompanied by moderate westerly winds, particularly during the night; at high altitudes the winds will be blowing at strong to storm velocity. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 12 and minus 15 degrees. Massive snow transport is expected. This will lead to a firmer layer of snowdrift deposited on top of a loosely packed old snowpack widespread.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; regions north of the Anterior Rhine:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. The snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places. In isolated cases, even naturally triggered avalanches are possible. Over the course of the day, the danger zones will become blanketed over by fresh fallen snow where the wind is not too strong; for that reason, they will be nearly impossible to recognize afterwards. The frequency of avalanche prone locations and the size of snowdrift accumulations tend to increase with ascending altitude. Extensive experience in the evaluation of avalanche hazards is imperative.

Ticino not including Gotthard region; Grisons not including Gotthard region and not including regions north of the Anterior Rhine:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily above 2000 m. In the indicated regions of northern and central Grisons as well as in the Lower Engadine, steep slopes in all expositions must be assessed with great care. In Ticino not including the Gotthard region, in the southern valleys of Grisons and in the Upper Engadine, the danger zones are to be found particularly on wind loaded slopes in all expositions. The frequency of avalanche prone locations tends to increase with ascending altitude. Very cautious and circumspect evaluation, as well as prudent route selection, are recommended in all the indicated regions.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Friday night, the snowfall will slacken off. During the course of the day on Saturday, it will turn sunny and temperatures will gradually rise somewhat. On Sunday in northern regions, conditions will be variable; in southern regions there will be sunshine. The avalanche danger on Saturday will remain more or less unchanged, the hazards will slowly subside as of Sunday.

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)

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:

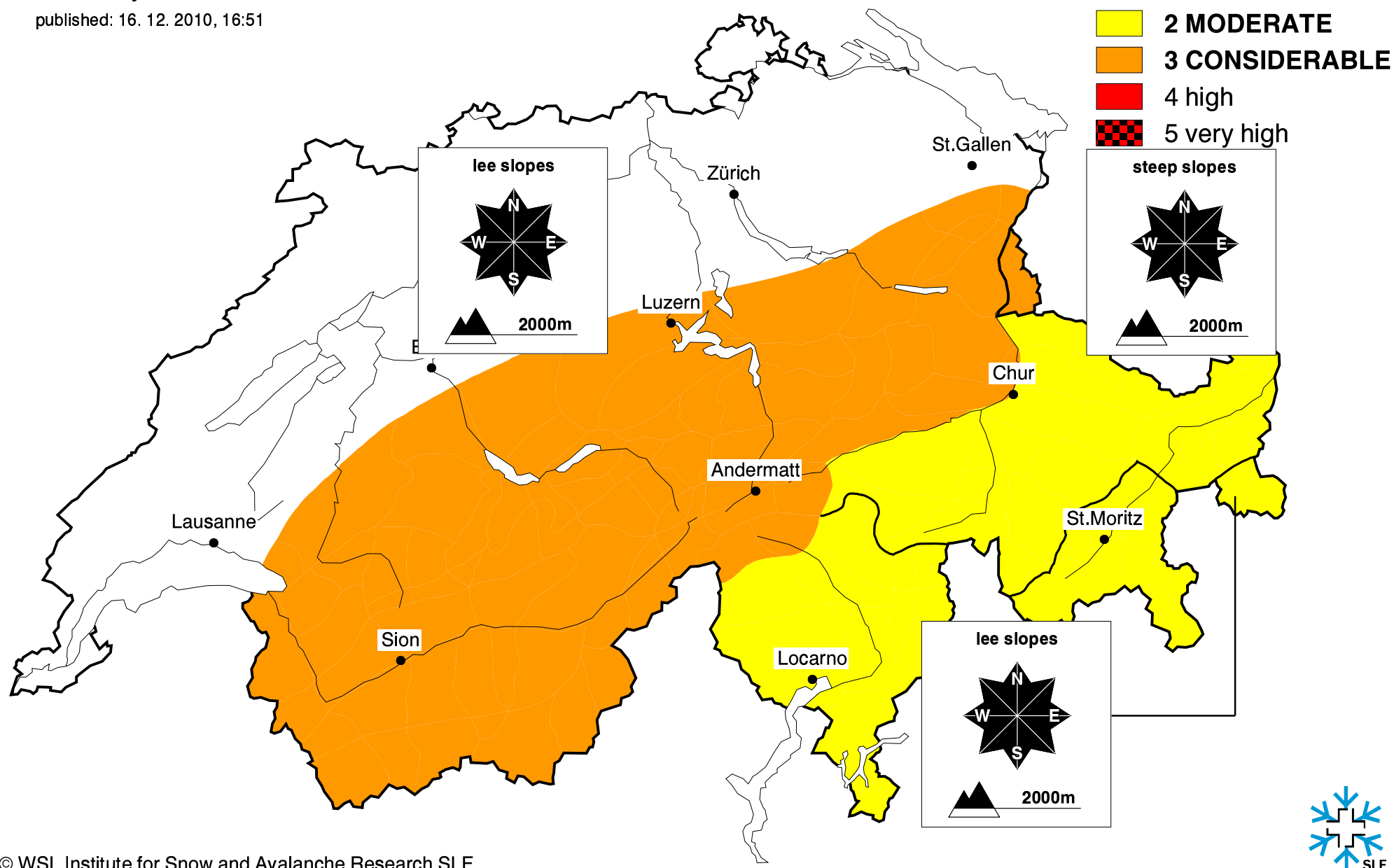
Email: lwp@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 17. December 2010

published: 16. 12. 2010, 16:51








Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 17. December 2010

published: 17. 12. 2010, 07:55

Danger level

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

