

## National avalanche bulletin no. 40

for Saturday, 18 December 2010

issue date 17.12.2010, 18:30 hours

### *First day following snowfall and wind - Outlying terrain is dangerous*

#### Current conditions

From Thursday evening until Friday afternoon, it snowed on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Lower Valais in particular. The following amounts of snowfall were registered: western part of the northern flank of the Alps, western and northern Lower Valais, 30 to 50 cm; central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, remaining Valais, 15 to 30 cm; Grisons and Ticino, 5 to 10 cm. The new fallen snow was accompanied by intermittently strong velocity westerly to southwesterly winds in the Jura and in the mountains in particular. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were slightly higher than during the last few days; it was minus 10 degrees in northern regions and minus 13 degrees in southern regions. The snow depths correspond to long term averages. At 2000 m there is 50 to 100 cm of snow; in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in western Ticino as much as 130 cm. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations have already consolidated somewhat. For that reason, a snowpack fracture could widen out to a greater surface than in recent days.

#### Short-term development

On Friday night the light snowfall in northern regions will slacken off. Over the course of the day on Saturday, it will turn increasingly sunny. The temperatures will drop again; at 2000 m it will be minus 15 degrees at midday. The wind will shift to northwesterly and be blowing temporarily at moderate velocity.

At the uppermost surface, the snowpack is lightly bonded in places. Backcountry skiers and freeriders can trigger avalanches easily.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

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

##### *Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations on the northern flank of the Alps not including the Gotthard region, in the regions Northern Surselva and Flims-Untervaz as well as in the Lower Valais not including the Main Alpine Ridge are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. In isolated cases, naturally triggered avalanches can be expected. In the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, in the Upper Valais and in the Gotthard region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m, in the Jura above approximately 1400 m. More than anywhere else in those places with lightly consolidated snow, e.g. snowdrift accumulations, avalanches can be easily triggered. Extensive experience in the evaluation of avalanche hazards and cautious restraint in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs are essential.

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 on wind loaded slopes. In the mountains of Ticino not including the Gotthard region, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, the wind loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m, in the remaining Grisons the wind loaded slopes above approximately 1800 m, are critical and must be evaluated with especially great care. A prudent route selection is recommended.

#### Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday, weather conditions in northern regions will be variable, accompanied by bright intervals; in southern regions it will be heavily overcast. On Monday in northern regions it will be heavily overcast; in southern regions it will be relatively sunny. The avalanche danger will recede somewhat on Sunday. On Monday, the development of avalanche hazards is still uncertain.

##### 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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0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax  
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##### 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

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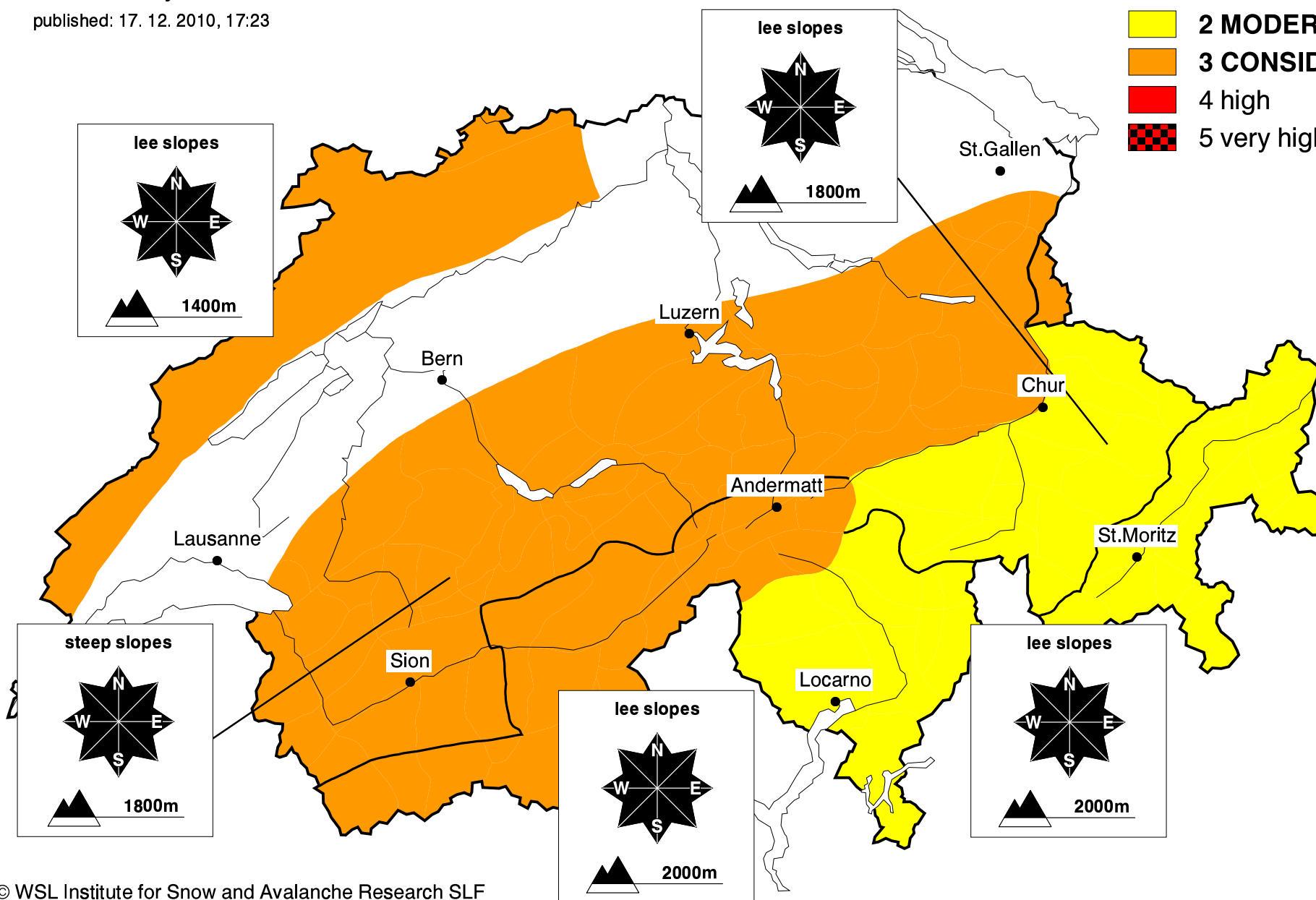
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 18. December 2010

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Danger level

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








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for Saturday, 18. December 2010

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-  **2 MODERATE**
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-  5 very high

