

National avalanche bulletin no. 43

for Tuesday, 21 December 2010

issue date 20.12.2010, 18:30 hours

Snow drift accumulations of recent days remain the main danger

Current conditions

On Sunday night, 5 to 15 cm of snow fell in northern Valais, western Lower Valais and northern Ticino, but less fell in the other regions. During the day, the weather was quite sunny in the mountains. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 2 degrees in the north and minus 5 degrees in the south. The southwesterly wind was strong to very strong in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, and moderate to strong in the other regions. In recent days, snow has been transported in all regions. In many cases, snow drift accumulations are lying in gullies and bowls. Over a wide area, the snow has been transported entirely from peaks and ridges. In most places, the snow surface has been significantly influenced by the wind.

Short-term development

On Tuesday, the weather will be rather pleasant at first. During the day, cloud will build up from the west and south. By the evening, a few centimetres of snow will fall above approximately 1500 m in the west and south. In the east, bright spells will continue to prevail until the evening. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 2 degrees in the north and minus 5 degrees in the south. The wind will be moderate from the southwest. The snow drift accumulations of recent days are slowly becoming stable. In particular, smaller and medium-sized snow drift accumulations and the shallow edges of accumulations, however, remain prone to triggering.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern flank of the Alps excluding the prealps; northern Valais; western Lower Valais; Goms:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. The snow drift accumulations that formed on Sunday and Monday remain the main danger. They can be released as avalanches even by the load of a single winter sport participant in some cases. In view of the large amounts of snow that have been transported in these regions, avalanches can also reach medium size. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger off-piste is required.

Prealps; Val d'Hérens, Arolla, Val d'Anniviers and Mountet regions; southern Upper Valais excluding Goms; Ticino; Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. They are to be found above approximately 1600 m in the prealps and above approximately 2000 m in the other regions subject to this danger level. The snow drift accumulations that formed on Sunday and Monday represent the main danger. These are to be found, in particular, behind peaks and in gullies and bowls. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided if possible, by selecting routes carefully.

In all regions, including Jura, full-depth avalanches can occur at low and intermediate altitudes in particular.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On Wednesday it will be very mild in the north. Snow will fall in the west and south. On Thursday, snow will fall heavily in the south, but only at times in the north. The avalanche danger will increase in the south in particular from Wednesday and in all regions from Thursday.

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

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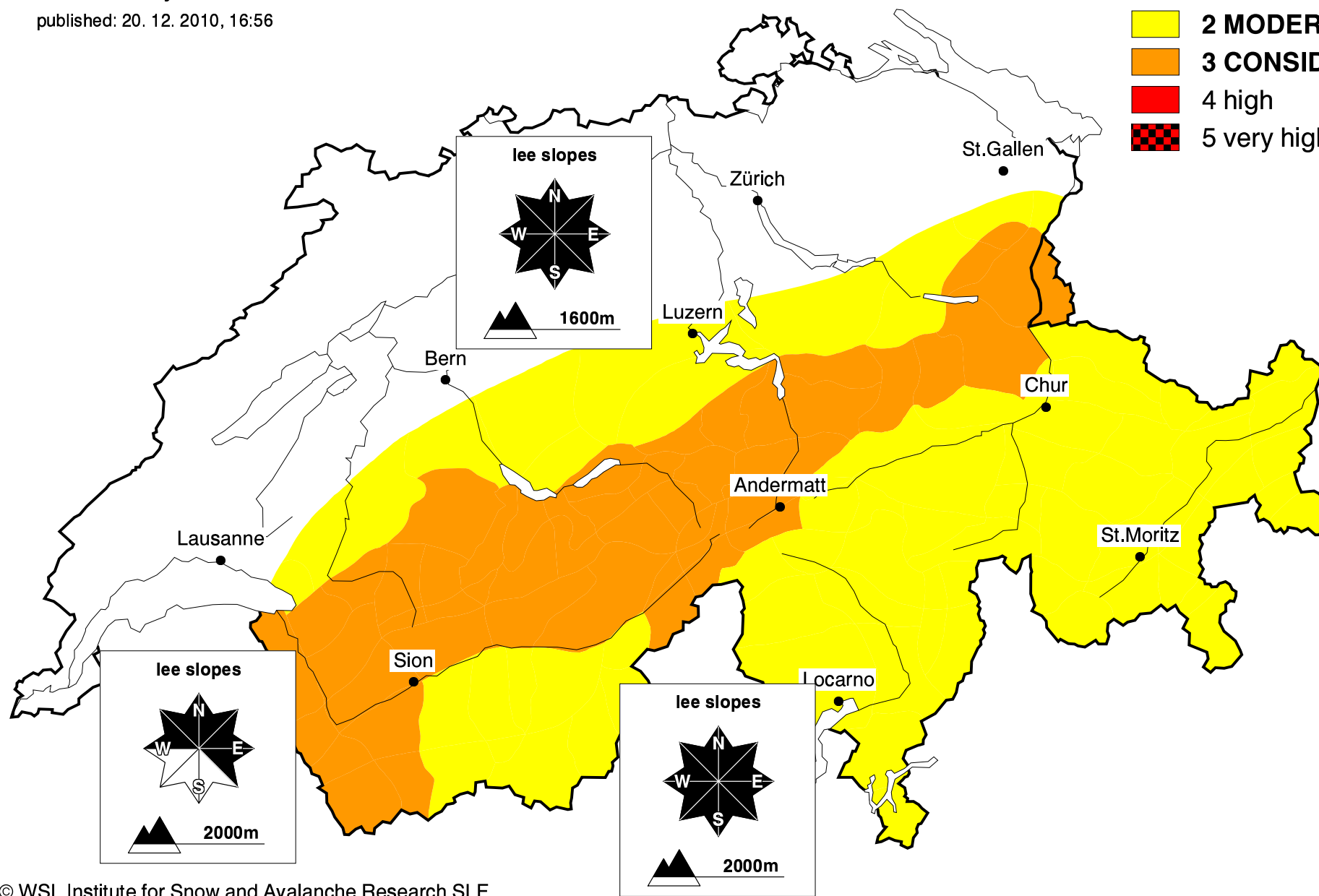
Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 21. December 2010

published: 20. 12. 2010, 16:56

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 21. December 2010

published: 21. 12. 2010, 07:27

Danger level

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

