

National avalanche bulletin no. 44

for Wednesday, 22 December 2010

issue date 21.12.2010, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger in some regions

Current conditions

Tuesday was mostly cloudy. In the afternoon, little snow fell in the west and south. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 3 degrees in the north and minus 6 degrees in the south. The southwesterly wind was mostly moderate, but locally strong.

In most regions, the snowpack has been significantly influenced by the wind.

Short-term development

On Wednesday, the weather will be bright in the east. In the west, little snow will fall above approximately 1800 m. Snow will fall in the south. Here, the snowfall level will rise to approximately 800 m. By Wednesday evening, the following amounts of snow will fall: 20 to 30 cm in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, Bergell, the Bernina region and Puschlav, and 10 to 20 cm on the rest of the main Alpine ridge, in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Valais. Less snow will fall elsewhere. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be mild in the north, at about plus 3 degrees, but about minus 2 degrees in the south. The southwesterly wind will be strong at high altitudes.

The older, generally large snow drift accumulations in the north are becoming increasingly stable. The fresh snow drift accumulations on the southern flank of the Alps in particular are prone to triggering.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Lower Valais; main Alpine ridge from the Furka Pass to Upper Engadine and regions to the south:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to southeast facing wind-loaded slopes. In Lower Valais, they are to be found above approximately 2000 m in particular. Older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. In the other regions subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2200 m in particular. Here, the main danger is posed by the fresh snow and fresh snow drift accumulations in particular.

In all areas subject to this danger level, avalanches can be triggered by a single person. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger off-piste is required.

Northern flank of the Alps excluding Urseren; northern Grisons; central Grisons excluding the regions on the main Alpine ridge; Upper Engadine north of the Inn; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are wind-loaded slopes of all aspects in particular. They are to be found above approximately 1800 m in particular on the northern flank of the Alps excluding Urseren, and above approximately 2000 m in the other regions subject to this danger level. Older snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. These are to be found behind peaks and in gullies and bowls, in particular, and are to be evaluated with care and prudence.

In view of the mild temperatures and rain in the west, full-depth and wet snow avalanches are expected to become more prevalent below approximately 2000 m. The affected regions are, in particular, Jura, the northern flank of the Alps, Lower Valais and northern Grisons.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday, snow will fall heavily in the south, but only at times in the west. There will be bright spells in the east. It will remain mild. Friday will be appreciably colder and snow will fall in the north. It will be increasingly sunny in the south. The avalanche danger will continue to increase on Thursday in the south. On Friday it may increase a little in the north.

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

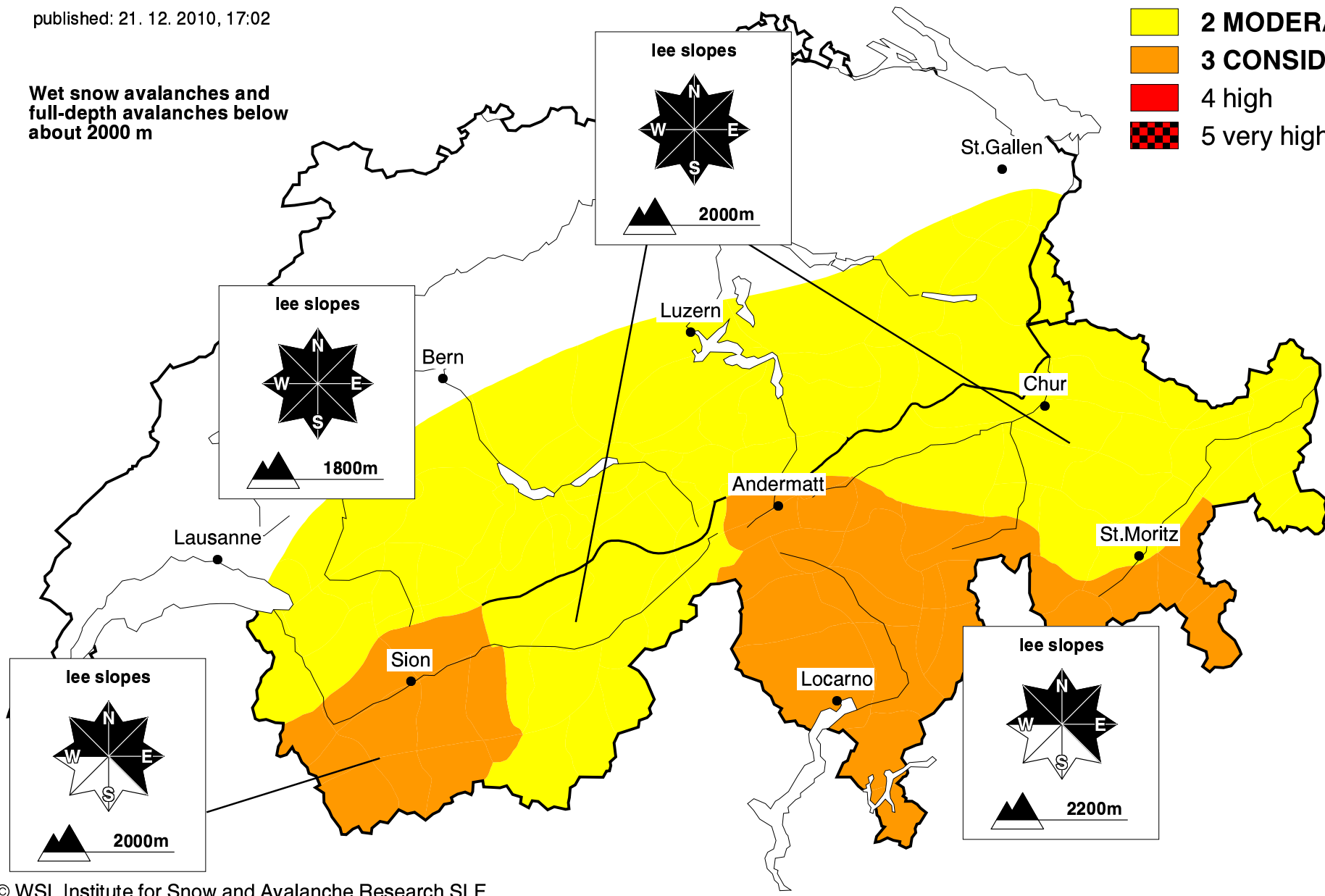
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Wet snow avalanches and
full-depth avalanches below
about 2000 m

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Wet snow avalanches and
full-depth avalanches below
about 2000 m

Danger level

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

