

National avalanche bulletin no. 55

for Sunday, 2 January 2011

issue date 1.1.2011, 18:30 hours

Danger widespread is moderate, generally favourable avalanche situation

Current conditions

On New Year's Day it was sunny and mild in the Swiss Alps. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 1 degree. The northerly winds were predominantly light.

The snowpack far and wide bears the stamp of strong winds and highly variable temperatures. On the northern flank of the Alps, in western regions and in the Upper Engadine, more than anywhere else, there is also a rain crust from pre-winter embedded inside the snowpack from region to region. For that reason, the snow layering manifests vast differences. The low temperatures throughout many nights have brought about intensive faceting and, to some extent, loosening of the snowpack, especially on shady slopes. In general, however, the snowpack tends only slightly towards failure propagation.

Short-term development

On Saturday night, clouds will move in from the north. By Sunday evening, predominantly in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, a few centimeters of snowfall is anticipated. In the Valais it will be overcast to begin with; over the course of the day, the skies are expected to brighten up. On the southern flank of the Alps, it will be slightly cloudy in the mountains during the morning hours. Temperatures are expected to drop significantly. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 6 degrees in western and southern regions and minus 10 degrees in eastern regions. The northerly wind will be blowing at light to moderate strength.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Swiss Alps not including Prealps and not including eastern part of northern flank of the Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of western to northern to southern exposition above approximately 2000 m. In the Valais and in Grisons, the danger zones are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. In the mountains of Ticino, the hazardous zones are primarily on steep slopes in western to northern to southeastern exposition above approximately 2200 m. Rock studded terrain, places with little snow and transition areas from shallow to deep snow, as for example at the entrances into gullies and bowls, should be evaluated with great care. Critical layers inside the snowpack are more frequently evident in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais than in other regions, and are more prone to triggering there as well. The avalanche prone locations are not widespread, nevertheless are quite difficult to recognize in places. For that reason, a prudent route selection is recommended.

Prealps; eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Older snowdrift accumulations should be evaluated with great care. Besides the perils of being buried in snow, heed must be taken towards the hazards of falling with just a thin layer of older snowdrift.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday:

On both days it is expected to be mostly sunny. It remains cold. The avalanche danger will subside only very slowly.

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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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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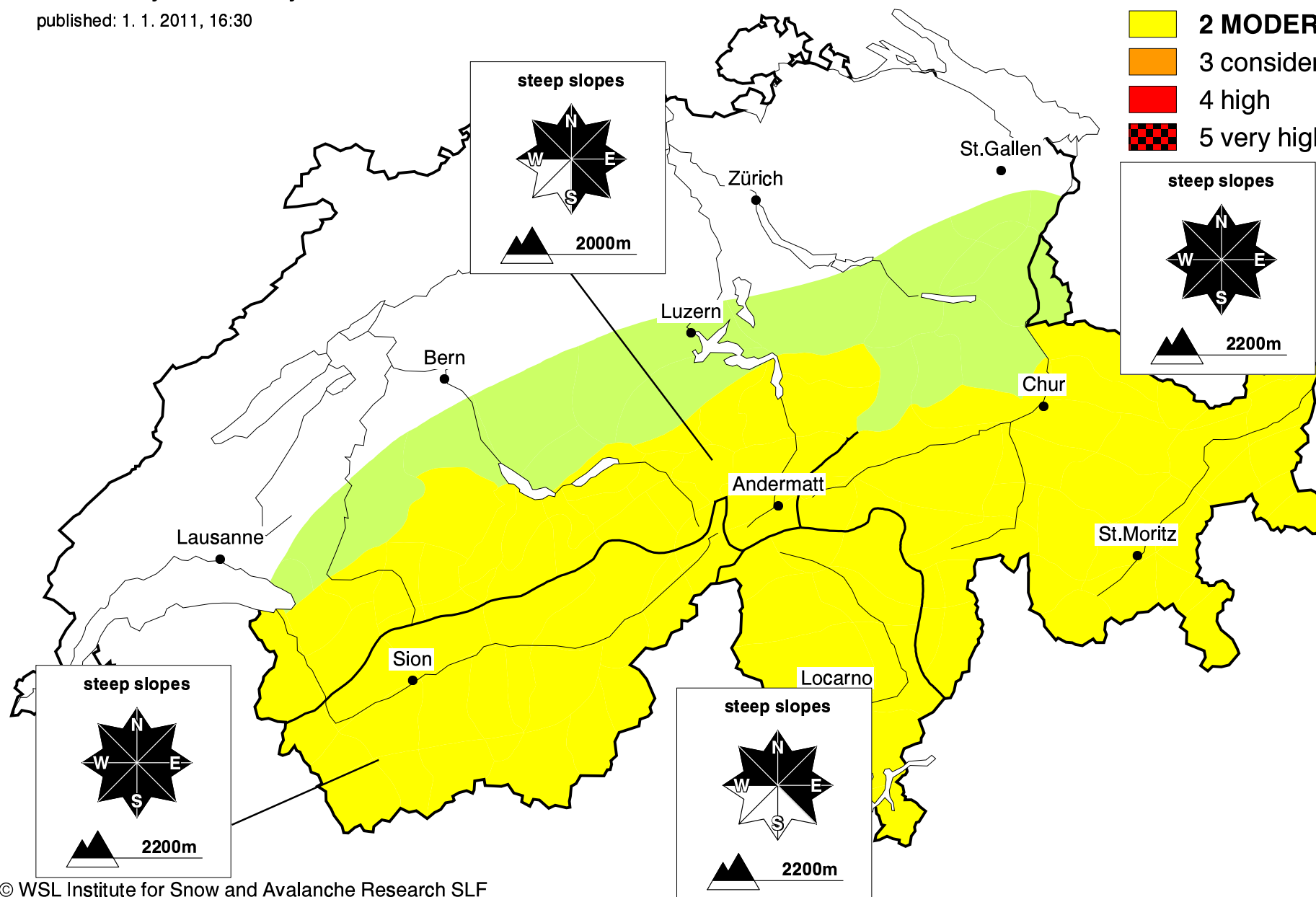
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 2. January 2011

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Danger level

-  **1 LOW**
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 considerable**
-  **4 high**
-  **5 very high**








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 2. January 2011

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Danger level

-  **1 LOW**
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 considerable**
-  **4 high**
-  **5 very high**

