

National avalanche bulletin no. 65

for Wednesday, 12 January 2011

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Considerable and moderate avalanche danger

Current conditions

Tuesday was overcast on the southern flank of the Alps. In the other regions, in particular those exposed to the foehn, the weather brightened up for some longer spells. Little snow fell in Ticino, Grisons and the far west. The midday temperature at 2000 m was between 0 degrees in the northeast and minus 2 degrees in the south. The southwesterly wind was light to moderate.

Loosely bonded, fairly recent snow is lying on top of mostly hard, irregularly deposited layers. At the bottom of the snowpack are loosely bonded, faceted layers of old snow. These conditions are especially prevalent in the central parts of Valais and Grisons, so that avalanche prone locations in the old snowpack are to be found most frequently here. On the southern flank of the Alps in particular, a lot of loosely bonded snow that is capable of being transported is lying on the surface.

Short-term development

On Tuesday night, 5 to 10 cm of snow will fall in Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons; the quantities will be smaller elsewhere. On the southern flank of the Alps and in Upper Engadine, it will remain dry. The snowfall level will be approximately 1000 m. During the day in the north, the weather will be bright at first, but become increasingly cloudy later. It will be sunny in the south. At midday, the temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 2 degrees. The northerly wind will strengthen to become moderate to strong. Loosely bonded snow will be transported.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Chablais, Trient, Champex, Villars and Ovronnaz regions; northern and central Ticino; main Alpine ridge from the Rheinwald region to the Bernina Pass and regions to the south, as well as the St. Moritz region:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

In the western regions subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to south facing steep slopes above approximately 2200 m. The older and fresh snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering and can be released by a single person.

In the regions of Ticino and Grisons that are subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on east to south to west facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. Fresh snow drift accumulations in particular can be released easily and are to be avoided.

Rest of the northern flank of the Alps; rest of Lower Valais; Upper Valais; rest of Grisons; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

In the relevant regions on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, Lower Engadine, Münstertal and Sotto Ceneri, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on east to south to west facing wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2000 m. Fresh snow drift accumulations are generally small. These are to be found, in particular, in gullies and bowls and behind changes in the terrain, and can be released easily in some places.

In the relevant regions of Valais and central Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Besides fresh, mostly small snow drift accumulations, slab avalanches can be triggered even in deep layers of the snowpack, especially by large additional loads, in areas where the snow cover is rather shallow. Careful route selection is required.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday morning, final precipitation will occur in the north. The snowfall level will rise to approximately 2000 m. During the day, the weather will brighten up from the west. On Friday it will be generally sunny. The south will be sunny on both days. The weather will become generally much milder. The danger of dry avalanches will increase a little on Thursday, especially in the north. From Friday, an increase in wet snow avalanches is to be expected.

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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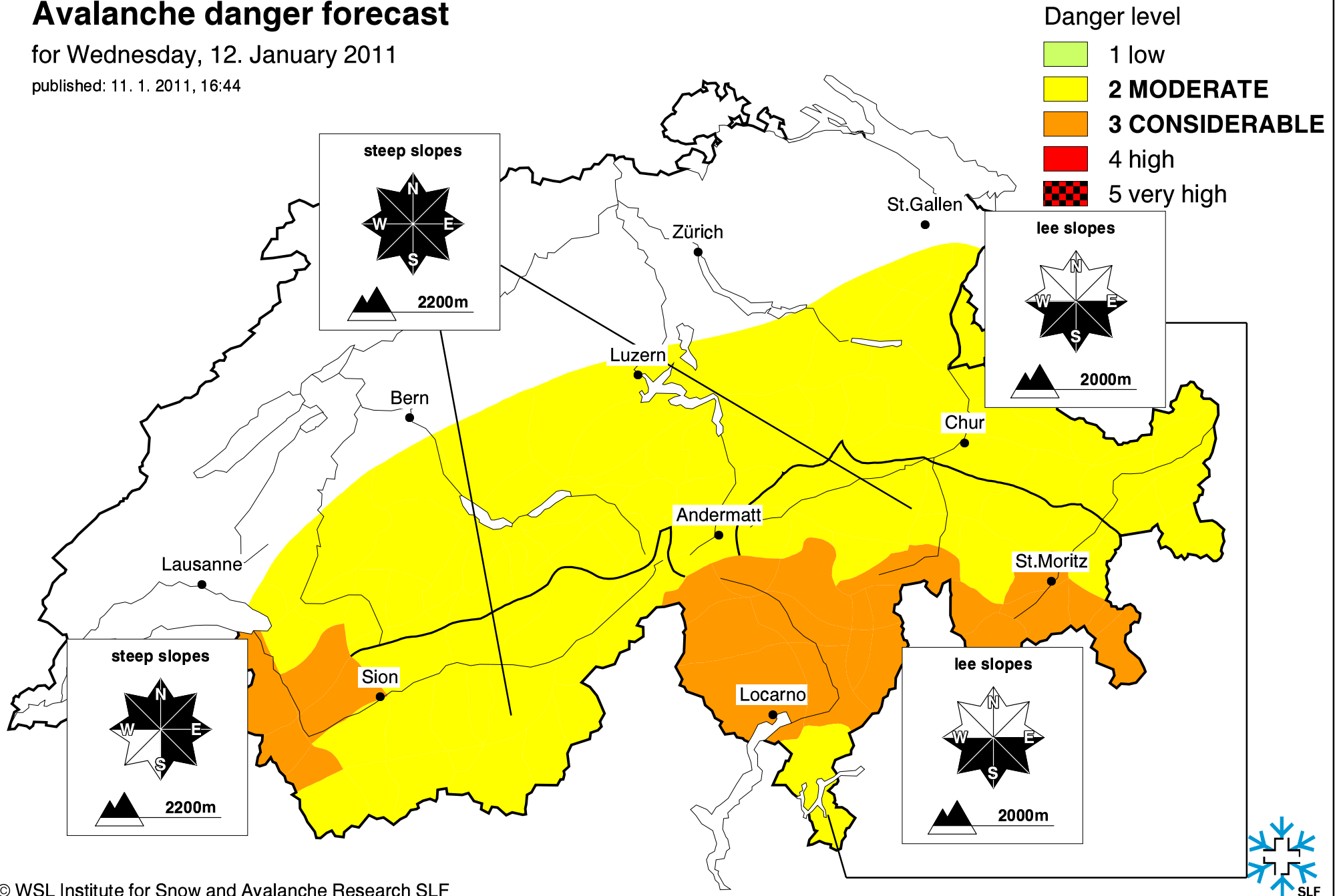
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