

National avalanche bulletin no. 67

for Friday, 14 January 2011

issue date 13.1.2011, 18:30 hours

At high altitudes, considerable avalanche danger in some regions

Current conditions

On Wednesday night there was widespread precipitation. During the day on Thursday, precipitation continued particularly on the northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Alpstein region, in the Prättigau and the Lower Engadine. The snowfall level ascended to 2000 to 2400 m. From the eastern Bernese Oberland into the Alpstein region, in northern Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, there was 20 to 40 cm of snowfall; over the last 2 days, 40 to 60 cm of snow has fallen in those regions. In the remaining regions, there has been less than 20 cm of new fallen snow since Wednesday. On the southern flank of the Alps, it remained largely dry. It was also sunny there. Over the course of the day in the remaining regions, there were increasingly frequent bright intervals from the west. The northwesterly wind was blowing at moderate to strong velocity.

The snowpack up towards altitudes of 2400 m is moist widespread; in the northern regions where precipitation was heaviest it is thoroughly wet. At high altitudes, the fresh fallen snow is still insufficiently bonded with the old snowpack. In the central parts of the Valais and Grisons, the snowpack contains layers of old snow embedded inside it which consist of loosely packed, faceted crystals.

Short-term development

On Thursday night, the skies will clear up in all regions of the Swiss Alps, lastly in the furthestmost eastern regions. During the day on Friday, it will be predominantly sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 4 degrees in northern regions and plus 6 degrees in southern regions. The westerly wind will be blowing at light to moderate strength.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern Alpine Ridge; Lower Valais; northern Grisons; Lower Engadine; Main Alpine Ridge from Bergell to the Bernina Pass; region of St. Moritz; Puschlav:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2400 m. Slab avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Particular caution is essential when evaluating the snowdrift accumulations which formed on Wednesday and Thursday. In the Lower Valais and the Engadine more than anywhere else, slab avalanches can also be triggered in more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack. In those regions, naturally triggered avalanches are possible in isolated cases. The likelihood of avalanches being triggered may increase somewhat over the course of the day.

Remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps, of the Valais and Grisons; Ticino:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2200 m. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the perilous zones are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in northeastern to southern to western exposition; in the remaining regions of this danger level, the hazardous zones occur on steep slopes in all expositions. Freshly formed, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations can be triggered as slab avalanches, particularly through large additional loading. In the valleys of Visp and in central Grisons, isolated avalanches can also be triggered from more deeply embedded layers in the snowpack, above all in places where the snow is shallow. A prudent route selection is essential.

Below about 2400 m on very steep south facing slopes more than anywhere else, wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected over the course of the day.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

Over the weekend for the most part, it will be generally sunny in the Swiss Alps. On Friday night along the northern flank of the Alps, it will be intermittently overcast. Temperatures will continue to be very mild. The danger of dry avalanches will subside; the danger of wet snow avalanches is somewhat subject to the daytime warming cycle.

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

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Avalanche danger forecast

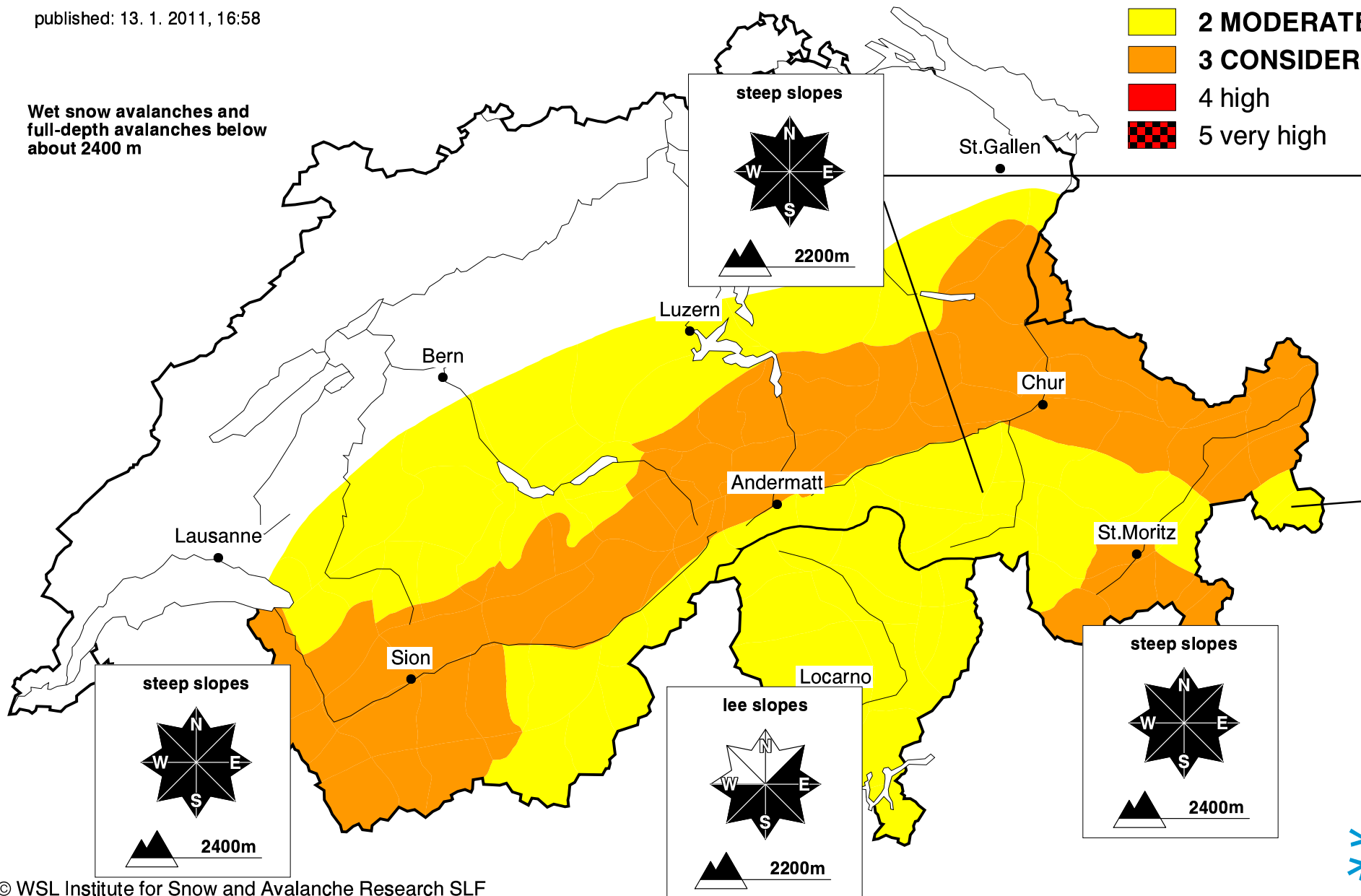
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Wet snow avalanches and
full-depth avalanches below
about 2400 m

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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