

## National avalanche bulletin no. 68

for Saturday, 15 January 2011

issue date 14.1.2011, 18:30 hours

*At high altitudes, considerable avalanche danger in some regions*

### Current conditions

On Thursday night in the eastern part of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons, it was still predominantly overcast; in western regions, in the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps the skies were clear and the outgoing long wave radiation quite adequate. During the day on Friday, it was generally sunny in all regions. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 4 degrees in eastern regions, plus 6 degrees in western and southern regions. The westerly wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity.

The snowpack is moist up to high altitudes; in northern regions it is thoroughly wet below approximately 2200 m. At high altitudes, the new fallen snow from Wednesday and Thursday is still insufficiently bonded with the old snowpack from place to place. 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 Friday night along the northern flank of the Alps, it will be heavily overcast and a small amount of precipitation is possible. During the day on Saturday, it will be sunny throughout the Swiss Alps. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be approximately plus 3 degrees. The northwesterly wind will be blowing intermittently at moderate to strong velocity on Friday night, during the day on Saturday it will slacken off to light to moderate strength.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern Alpine Ridge from Chablais to the Reuss; Urner Alps; regions of Linthal and Sernftal; Silvretta; Lower Engadine north of the Inn River:

*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. They are expected to attain small to medium size.

Avalanche prone locations can be recognized only with great difficulty. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, caution is imperative.

Remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; southern Valais; Ticino; remaining parts of northern Grisons and of Lower Engadine; central Grisons; Upper Engadine; southern valleys of Grisons:

*Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. Slab avalanches can be triggered particularly through large additional loading, such as a group of persons skiing without maintaining distances. In most regions, the fractures are anticipated in layers close to the surface. In southern Valais and in central Grisons more than anywhere else, also avalanches triggered in more deeply embedded layers of the faceted old snowpack are possible in isolated cases. Such avalanches will most probably occur in places with shallow snow, such as in transition areas into gullies and bowls. A prudent route selection is essential.

Prealps:

*Low avalanche danger (Level 1)*

Below approximately 2400 m in all regions of the Swiss Alps, particularly on very steep south facing slopes, isolated wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected. Below glide cracks, skiers and freeriders should not linger any longer than necessary.

### Trend for Sunday and Monday

On both days it is expected to be predominantly sunny. Especially on Sunday, it will once again be very mild. The hazards of dry avalanches will incrementally subside. The danger of wet snow avalanches is somewhat contingent upon 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)

Weather Information in collaboration with **MeteoSwiss**

0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax  
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

#### 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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**Feedback information:**

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# Avalanche danger forecast

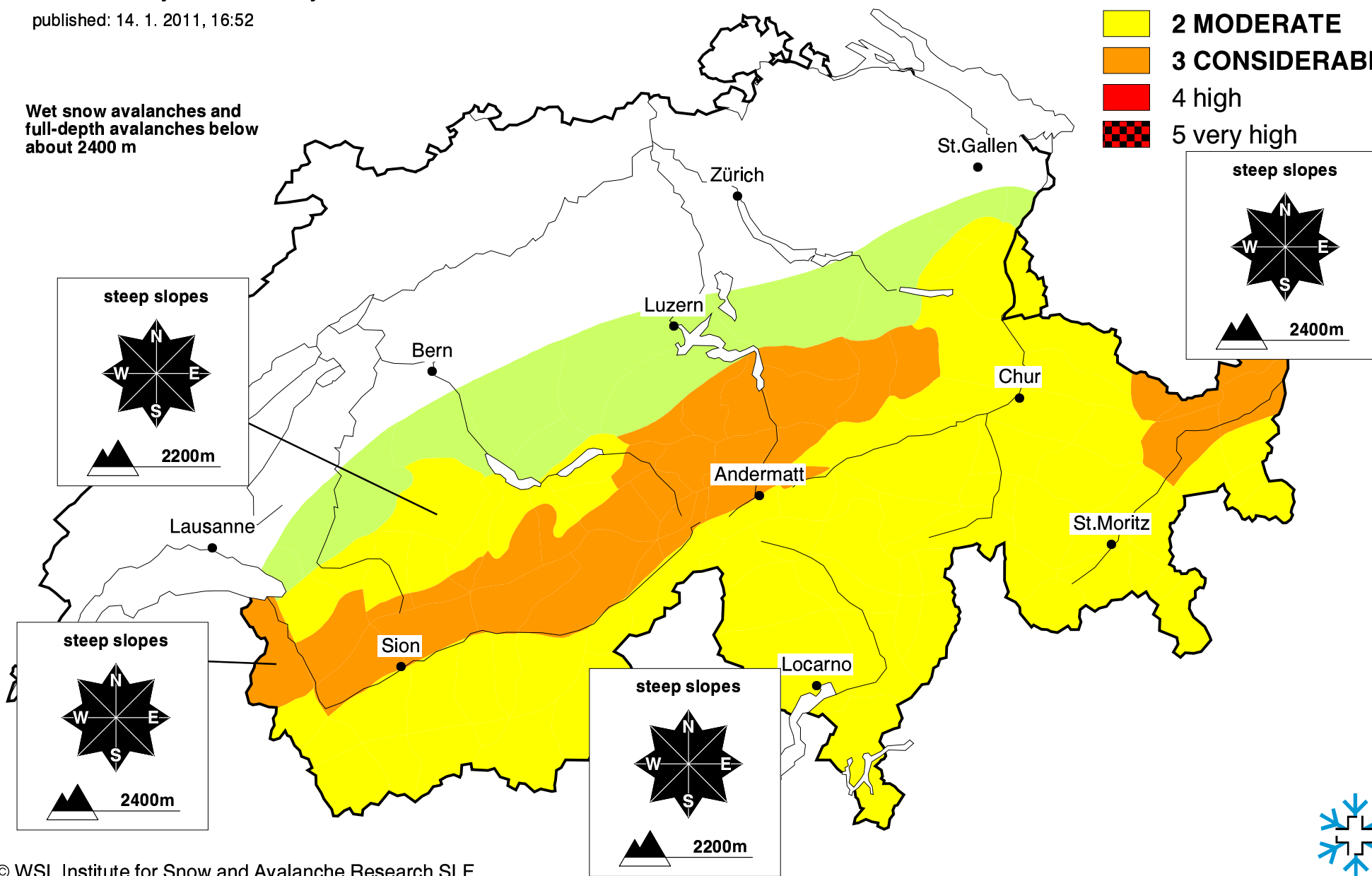
for Saturday, 15. January 2011

published: 14. 1. 2011, 16:52

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

for Saturday, 15. January 2011

published: 15. 1. 2011, 07:51

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

Danger level

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

