

National avalanche bulletin no. 69

for Sunday, 16 January 2011

issue date 15.1.2011, 18:30 hours

Moderate avalanche danger in widespread areas

Current conditions

On Friday night in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Grisons, there was a few centimeters of snowfall. During the day on Saturday, it was predominantly sunny in the mountains. In the Prealps and in the valleys, residual clouds lingered in some places. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 1 degree in northeastern regions and plus 5 degrees in western regions. The northwesterly wind was blowing intermittently at strong velocity on Friday night, during the day on Saturday winds were of moderate strength.

The snowpack is moist up to high altitudes. In the northern regions it is thoroughly wet below approximately 2000 m. At high altitudes, fresh, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations have formed. In the central parts of the Valais and Grisons, the snowpack in widespread areas contains layers of old snow embedded inside it which consist of loosely packed, faceted crystals.

Short-term development

On Saturday night, the skies will be predominantly clear with quite adequate outgoing long wave radiation. During the day on Sunday, it will be sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be very mild, at plus 7 degrees. The southwesterly wind will be blowing at light strength. The mild temperatures will bring about a consolidation of the uppermost surface layers of the snowpack, particularly on very steep, south facing slopes. On north facing slopes at higher altitudes, the snow will remain cold.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Swiss Alps not including the Prealps and not including Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found above approximately 2200 m. On the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, in the Valais and in Grisons not including the regions Val Calanca and Val Moesa, the hazardous zones are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps not including Sotto Ceneri, the avalanche prone locations are to be found particularly on steep slopes of western to northern to southeastern exposition as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all expositions. Apart from the relatively small sized, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, avalanches can be triggered primarily through large additional loading. The likelihood of avalanches being triggered tends to increase with ascending altitude on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the Lower Engadine in particular.

In southern Valais and in central Grisons more than anywhere else, avalanches which are triggered in more deeply embedded layers of the faceted old snowpack are also 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 imperative.

Prealps; Sotto Ceneri:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

In the Prealps, dry avalanches are no longer to be expected, due to the thoroughly wet snowpack. In Sotto Ceneri, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on extremely steep, shady slopes.

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 over the course of the day. Below glide cracks, skiers and freeriders should not linger any longer than necessary.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it is expected to be predominantly sunny. On Tuesday it will be partly overcast in northern regions, sunny in southern regions. The temperatures are expected to drop slightly. The hazards of dry avalanches will gradually subside. The danger of wet snow avalanches will be somewhat subject to a 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**
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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

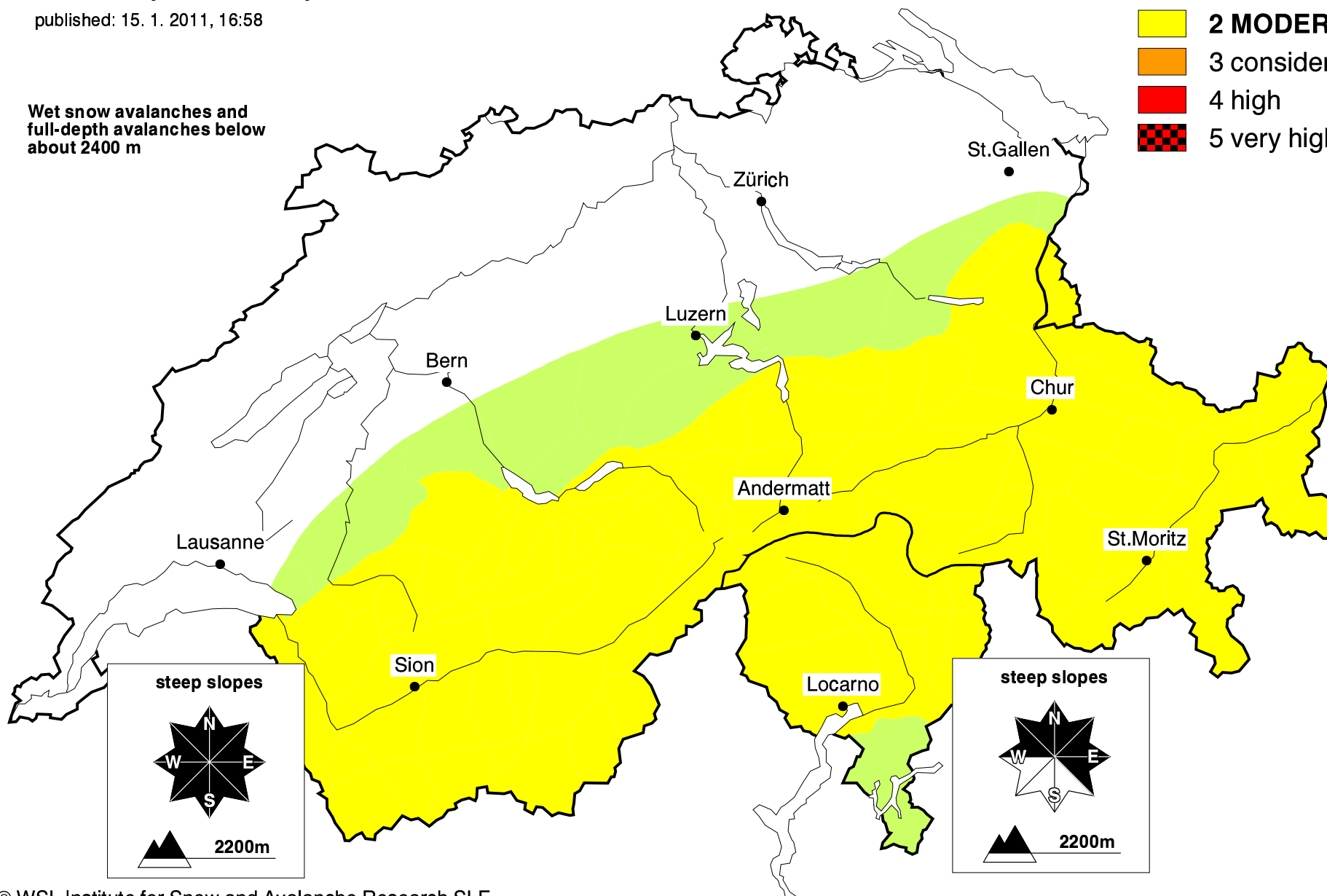
for Sunday, 16. January 2011

published: 15. 1. 2011, 16:58

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 Sunday, 16. January 2011

published: 16. 1. 2011, 07:37

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

Danger level

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

