

National avalanche bulletin no. 82

for Saturday, 29 January 2011

issue date 28.1.2011, 18:30 hours

Special care required towards freshly formed snowdrift accumulations

Current conditions

On Friday in northern regions, it was sunny above the high fog. On the southern flank of the Alps, there was in general heavy cloud cover. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 4 degrees in northern regions and minus 8 degrees in southern regions. The winds were from southerly directions and were blowing at light to moderate velocity.

As a result of the southerly winds, fresh snowdrift accumulations have formed, which from place to place can be easily triggered. More deeply embedded inside the snowpack, there are also hard packed layers which are directly adjacent to softer layers of faceted crystals and grains. These soft layers are thickest in the inneralpine regions. Particularly on the northern flank of the Alps, the distribution of snow depths and snow layering is highly varied and irregular, even across small surface areas. In general, however, the old snowpack evidences little tendency towards fracture propagation.

Short-term development

On Saturday it is expected to be heavily overcast on the southern flank of the Alps, in the remaining regions it will be partly sunny, accompanied by high altitude cloudbanks. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 5 degrees in northern regions and minus 8 degrees in southern regions. The wind will be blowing lightly, on the southern flank of the Alps and in the Engadine winds will be intermittently of moderate strength, and coming from southerly directions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Chablais and Villars regions; Bernese Oberland; central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps; Gotthard region; central Grisons not including Main Alpine Ridge; in addition, the regions of Flims-Untervaz, Schanfigg, Davos, Silvretta, Samnaun:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the indicated regions of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Gotthard region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes of western to northern to eastern exposition. In the Prealps, they are found above approximately 1800 m, elsewhere above approximately 2000 m.

In the Gotthard region, in central Grisons not including the Main Alpine Ridge, in addition, in the regions of Flims-Untervaz, Schanfigg, Davos, Silvretta and Samnaun, the avalanche prone locations are found primarily on steep slopes of western to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2400 m.

In all regions of this danger level, the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations occur most frequently in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas, as well as in gullies and bowls. They can be easily triggered from place to place, but as a rule remain small sized.

Furthermore, in the indicated regions of Grisons more than anywhere else, more deeply embedded layers inside the snowpack can be triggered especially through large additional loading. Particularly very steep places with shallow snow, such as transition areas into gullies and bowls, should be evaluated with great care.

A prudent route selection is important in all regions of this danger level.

Vaud Alps not including the region of Villars; Fribourg Alps; Valais not including the regions of Chablais and Obergoms; Ticino not including the Gotthard region; remaining parts of northern and central Grisons, as well as of the Engadine; southern valleys of Grisons:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in shady, extremely steep terrain at high altitudes where there are snowdrift accumulations. Avalanches are expected to fracture down to the old snowpack only seldom; this applies particularly to the indicated regions of the Valais. The danger of being swept along and falling should be taken into consideration.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, it is expected to be predominantly sunny and temperatures will rise somewhat. In the mountains, the wind will be blowing lightly in general, in northern regions a moderate velocity breeze is expected to arise. The avalanche danger is expected to change only insignificantly.

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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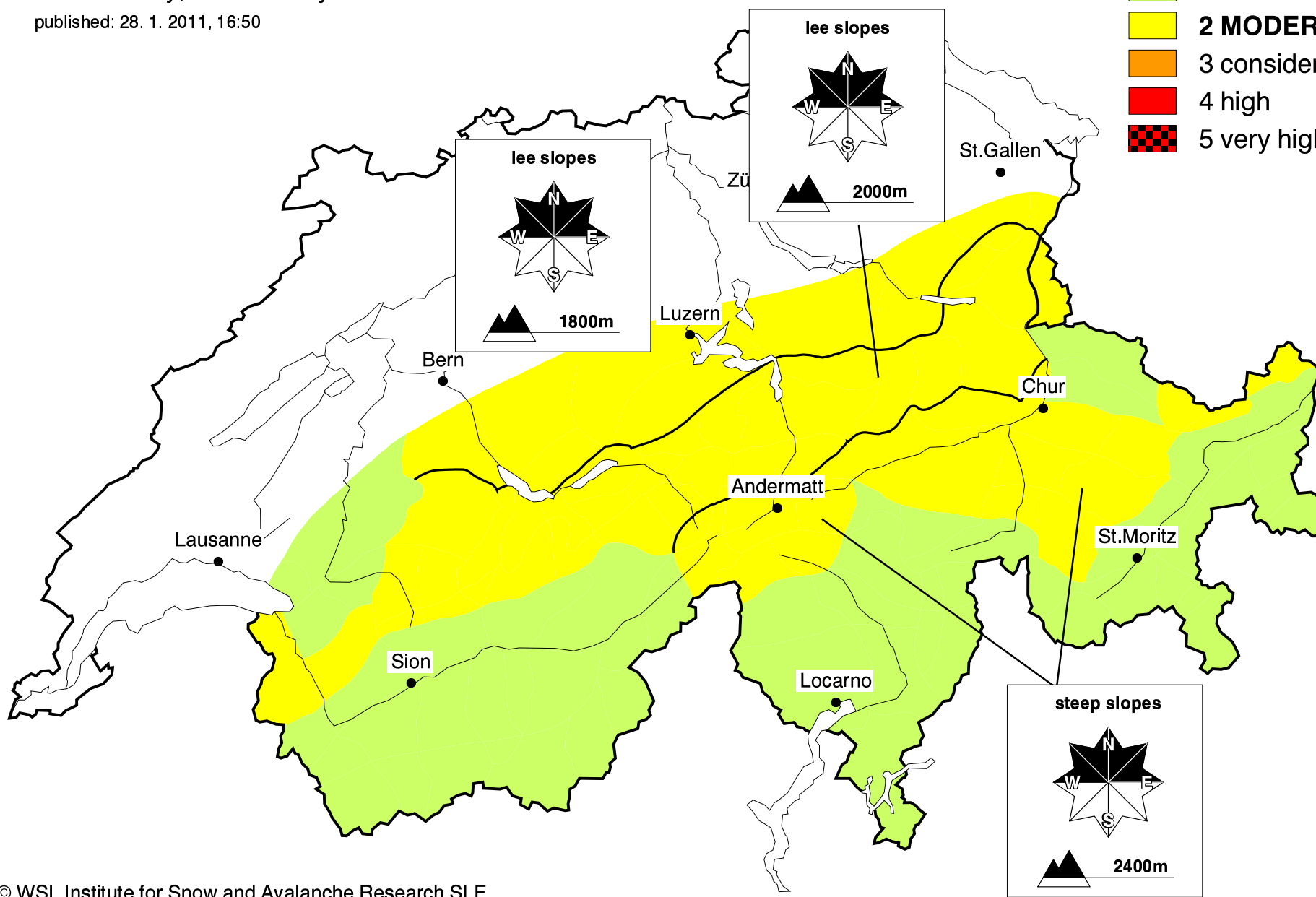
Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 29. January 2011

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 29. January 2011

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Danger level

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

