

National avalanche bulletin no. 102

for Friday, 18 February 2011

issue date 17.2.2011, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger in some southern regions

Current conditions

On Thursday, it was overcast widespread in the Swiss Alps, in the Valais it was intermittently sunny. Since this phase of precipitation began on Tuesday morning, there have been the following amounts of snowfall: in the southern Simplon region, in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps and from Bergell into the Bernina region, 30 to 50 cm; in Bergell and central Ticino, as much as 60 cm from place to place. On the bordering Main Alpine Ridge regions, in the westernmost part of Valais and in Upper Engadine, there was 10 to 20 cm; in the remaining regions, less than 10 cm of new fallen snow or it remained entirely dry. The midday temperature at 2000 m was between plus 1 degree in northwestern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions. The wind was blowing at light to moderate strength from southerly directions.

The fresh fallen snow has been deposited widespread as loosely packed snow, to some extent in the form of largely unbounded snowdrift accumulations. The old snowpack surface has been heavily influenced by sun and wind in widespread regions, and is hard. It is loosely packed primarily in shady, wind protected zones.

Short-term development

On Thursday night in southern regions more than anywhere else, the skies will be predominantly overcast. It is possible that a few centimeters of snow will fall in those regions. Over the course of the day on Friday, it will be sunny in all regions of the Swiss Alps. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees. The northwesterly wind will be blowing at light velocity.

In the southern regions in particular, where precipitation has been heaviest, the fresh fallen snow is increasingly settling and consolidating.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Southern Simplon region; central part of the southern flank of the Alps; Bergell; Corvatsch; Bernina region; Bernina Pass:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of western to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2200 m. Particularly in places where snowdrift has been deposited on top of loosely packed old snow, avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Older snowdrift accumulations have been blanketed over by new fallen snow, but are to be found for the most part on shady slopes. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, general caution and experience in the assessment of avalanche hazards are essential.

Remaining Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn into Avers; remaining Upper Engadine; Puschlav; Ofen Pass; Müntertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes of western to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2400 m. Particularly treacherous are snowdrift accumulations, which occur most frequently in areas adjacent to ridge lines, in gullies and in bowls. These snowdrift accumulations are relatively small sized, but can be easily triggered from place to place.

Northern flank of the Alps not including the Gotthard region; remaining regions of Valais; remaining regions of Grisons:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind protected slopes in extremely steep terrain. These danger zones tend to become somewhat more frequent with ascending altitude.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

To begin with on Saturday, it will be sunny in all regions of the Swiss Alps. Over the course of the day, clouds will move in from the west. On Sunday it will be heavily overcast in northern regions and a small amount of snowfall is possible. In southern regions it will remain sunny. The avalanche danger is expected to gradually subside in southern regions; in northern regions it will remain unchanged.

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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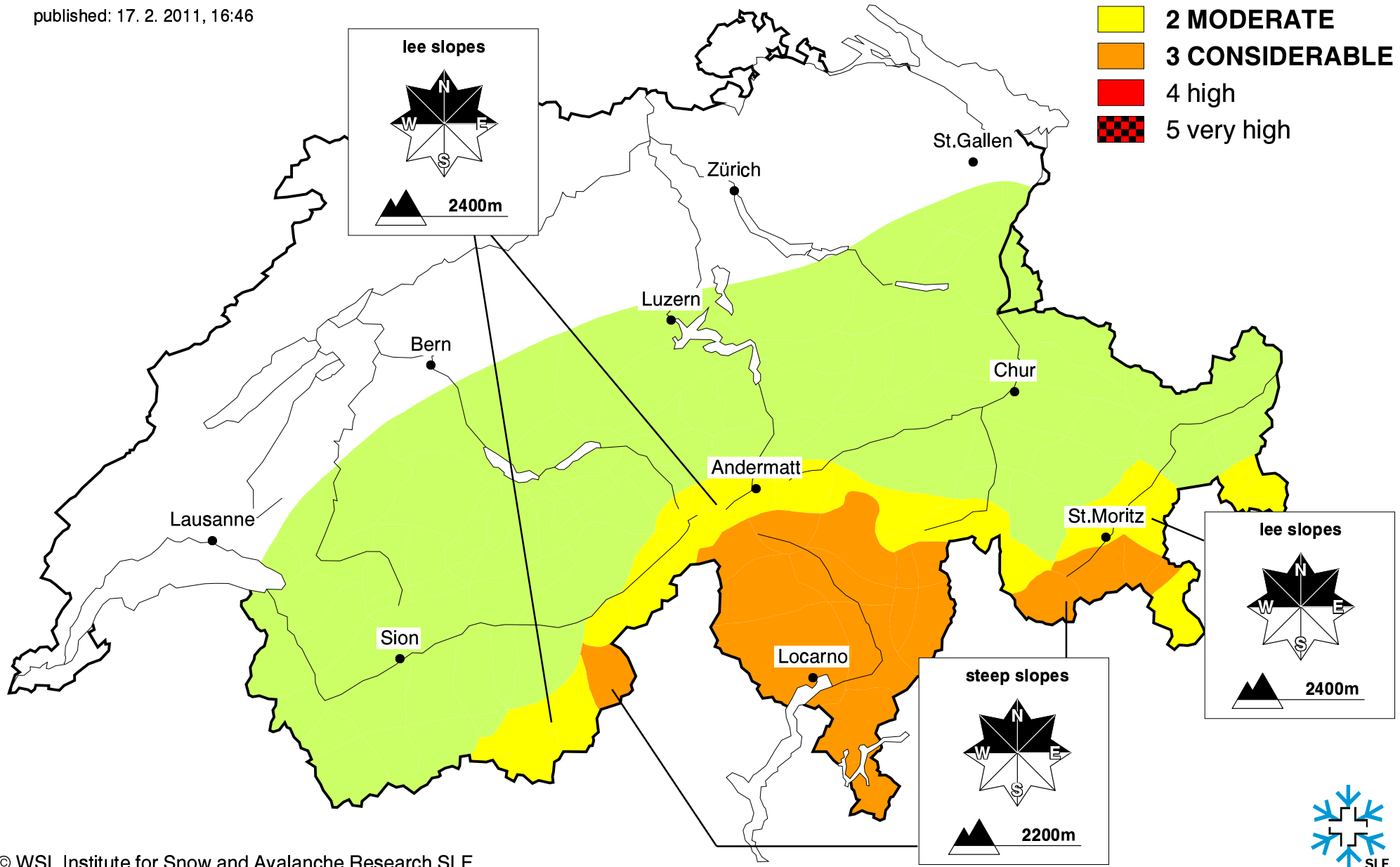
Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 18. February 2011

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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

