

National avalanche bulletin no. 106

for Tuesday, 22 February 2011

issue date 21.2.2011, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger in the north

Current conditions

Monday was quite sunny in southern Valais and Ticino, but cloudy elsewhere. Snow fell in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps. In the period since Sunday morning, a total of 20 to 40 cm of snow fell over a wide area on the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Lower Valais; up to 50 cm of snow fell in some localities in the Glarus Alps. 10 to 20 cm of snow fell in southern Lower Valais, northern Upper Valais, Urseren and northern Grisons. Smaller quantities fell further south. On Monday, the wind was light in the west, but otherwise mostly moderate from the west to northwest. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 6 degrees.

On shady slopes, the snow fell on a snowpack that was weakly bonded in many places, and sometimes on surface hoar. In many places, the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations have bonded poorly with the old snowpack.

Short-term development

On Tuesday, the weather will be very cloudy in the north and east, and little snow will fall. It will be sunny at times in the west, but mostly sunny in Valais and Ticino. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 8 degrees. The wind will be light to moderate from the northwest initially. In the afternoon, it will be moderate to strong from the north in the central and eastern regions, and give rise to fresh snow drift accumulations.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern Alpine ridge from Chablais to Wildstrubel; northern flank of the Alps from the eastern Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein excluding Urseren; also Lötschental; regions north of the Anterior Rhine; Prättigau:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In some places, the fresh snow and snow drift accumulations have bonded poorly with the old snowpack. Avalanches can be triggered even by a single winter sport participant. On north facing slopes in particular, old snow can be released as well in isolated cases. In these circumstances, medium-sized avalanches are possible. For those venturing off piste, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required.

Other regions in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps; southern Valais; Aletsch region; Goms; Urseren; Ticino; remaining regions of Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

In the relevant regions in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Fresh snow and snow drift accumulations remain prone to triggering in some cases. Careful route selection is important. In the other regions subject to this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Snow drift accumulations are to be found chiefly adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls. Although mostly small, they can be released even by a single winter sport participant in some cases. They are to be avoided as far as possible. In the afternoon, as the northerly wind picks up, fresh snow drift accumulations can form in the central and eastern regions, and the avalanche danger will increase a little.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

Wednesday will be sunny, but in the afternoon high-altitude cloud will build up from the west. On Thursday it will be very cloudy, and snow will fall in the north in particular. The northerly wind will pick up during Wednesday, becoming strong in the eastern and southern regions in particular. The wind will transport the fresh and old snow. It will also increase the avalanche danger in some regions.

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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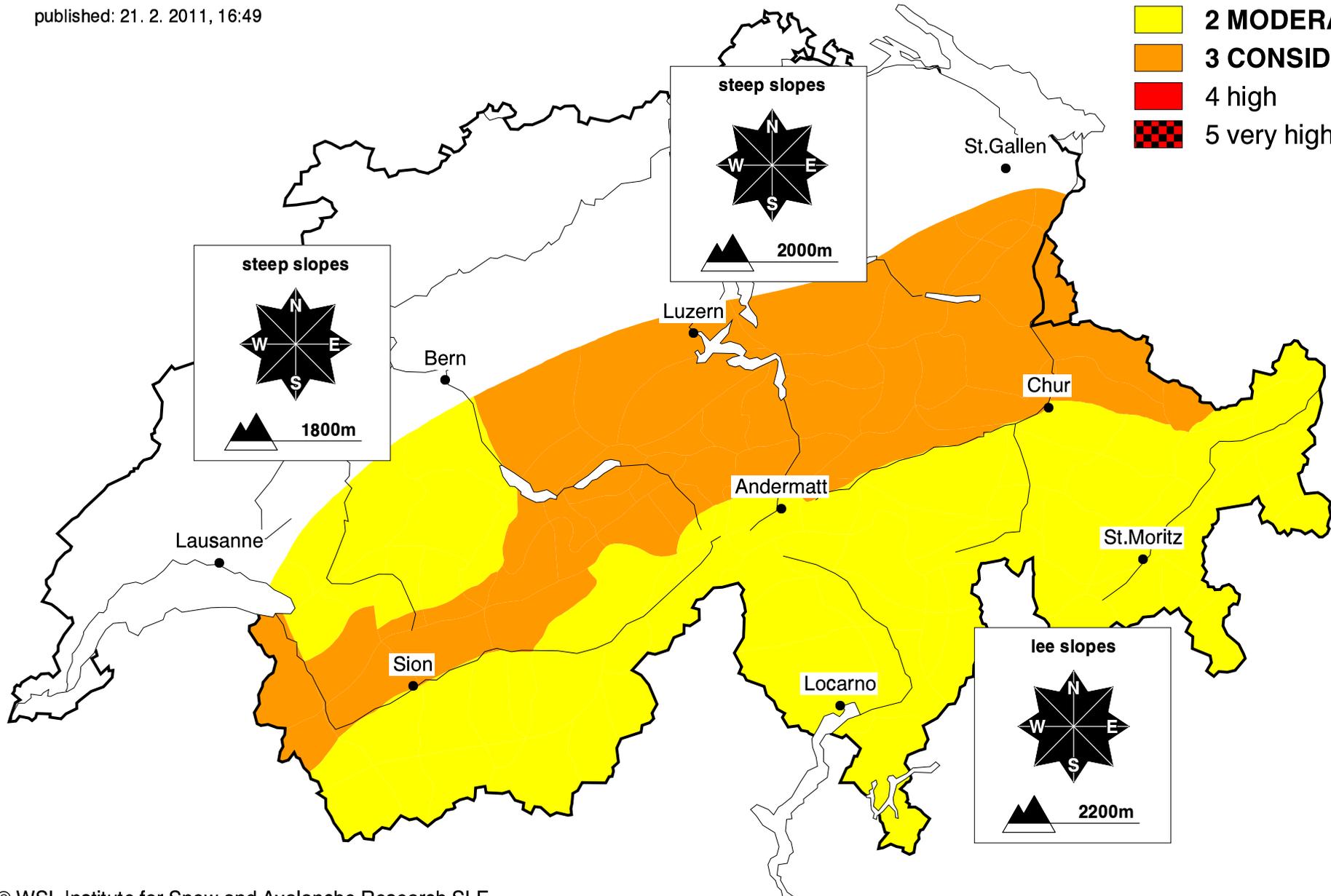
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Danger level

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



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