

National avalanche bulletin no. 108

for Thursday, 24 February 2011

issue date 23.2.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is considerable widespread - Avoid fresh snowdrift

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was sunny. During the afternoon in far western regions, clouds moved in. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 8 degrees. The northerly wind was blowing at moderate strength in most regions, in some places at strong velocity. At high altitudes and in high alpine regions more than anywhere else, snowdrift accumulations, in general of relatively small size, were formed. Particularly on slopes of northern exposition, they could be easily released and in isolated cases were naturally triggered.

Short-term development

On Thursday it will be heavily overcast, with bright intervals in the southernmost regions. During the early morning hours, snowfall will set in from the west. By evening on the northern flank of the Alps, about 10 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated, elsewhere less. In the furthestmost southern regions, it will remain dry. The snowfall level will ascend to about 1000 m. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 5 degrees. The wind at 2000 m will be blowing at light strength from westerly directions, at high altitudes at strong velocity from northerly directions. Particularly at high altitudes, snowdrift accumulations will form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps not including western Prealps; Valais not including the inneralpine regions; in addition, Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; central Grisons; Flims - Untervaz; Upper Engadine; Bergell; Puschlav:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3):

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions. Along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Great St. Bernard to the Simplon region and in southern Goms, they are found above approximately 2500 m; elsewhere above approximately 2000 m. In the Valais, the snowdrift accumulations have been deposited most frequently in areas adjacent to ridge lines, in gullies and bowls; in the remaining regions, they tend to be distributed more widespread. Due to the snowfall and wind, both size and frequency of the snowdrift accumulations are expected to increase somewhat over the course of the day. These drifted masses can be easily triggered and should be avoided. Experience in the evaluation of avalanche hazards is essential.

Western Prealps; central Valais; Prättigau; Schanfigg; Davos region; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions. In the western Prealps, they are found above approximately 1800 m; elsewhere above approximately 2000 m. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations have been deposited most frequently in areas adjacent to ridge lines, in pass areas, as well as in gullies and bowls. They are generally small sized, but can be easily triggered and should be avoided whenever possible. In high alpine regions, the snowdrift accumulations occur more frequently and are larger in size. The avalanche danger there is somewhat higher. A prudent route selection is important.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Thursday night, snowfall is anticipated in northern regions in particular. During the day on Friday, the precipitation is expected to gradually taper off. In the Valais, longer and larger bright intervals are expected, in southern regions it will be quite sunny. At high altitudes, the northerly wind will be blowing at strong to storm velocity. On Saturday morning, it is expected to be partly sunny, subsequently the cloud cover will become denser from the west. On Friday, the avalanche danger will increase somewhat in northern regions. On Saturday, it will incrementally subside in all regions of the Swiss Alps.

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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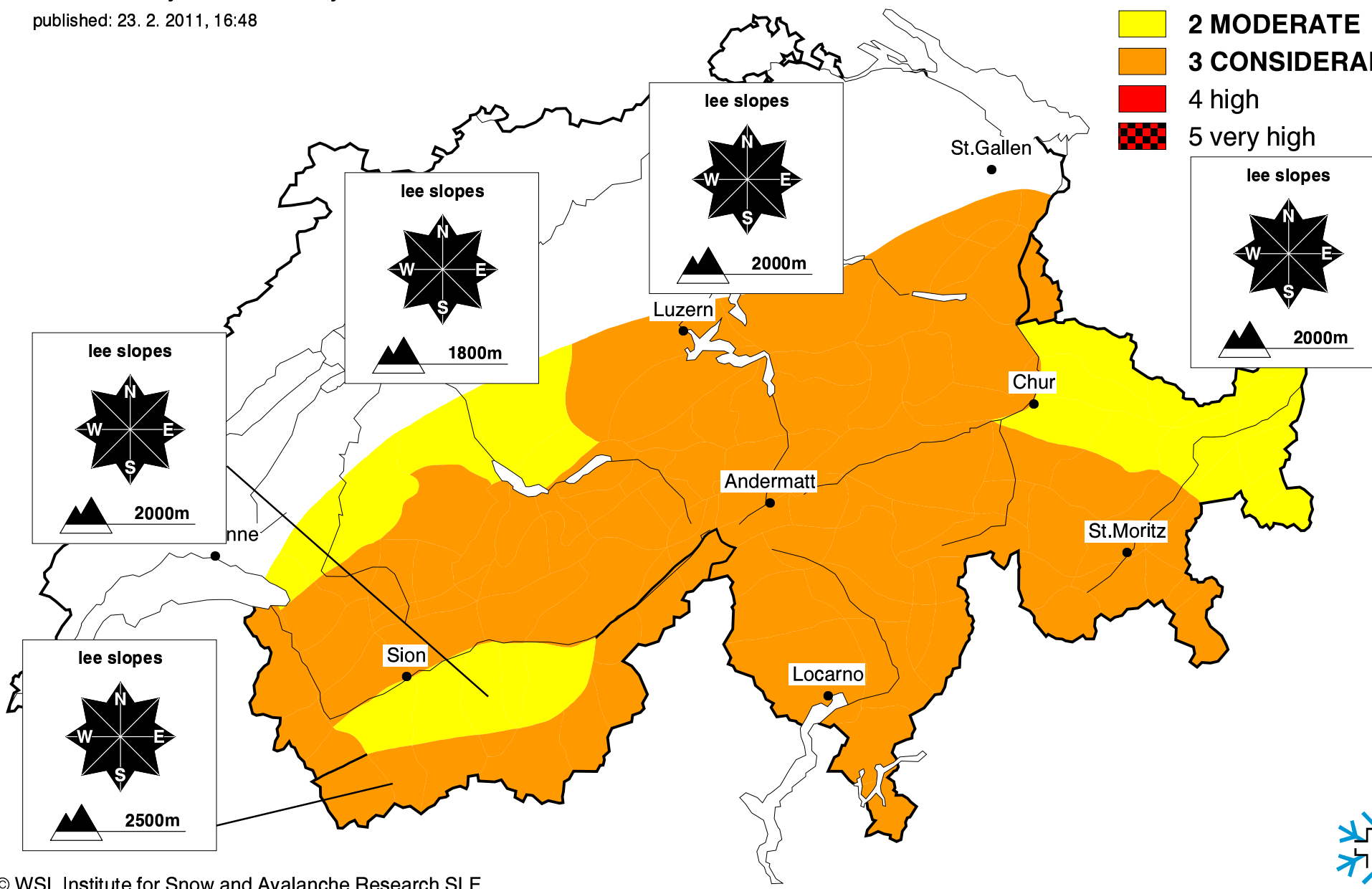
Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 24. February 2011

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 24. February 2011

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Danger level

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

