

National avalanche bulletin no. 109

for Friday, 25 February 2011

issue date 24.2.2011, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger widespread, amid storm winds and snowfall

Current conditions

On Thursday it was sunny only in the furthestmost southern regions and in Grisons, and only until midday. Elsewhere it was heavily overcast and from the west snowfall set in. By Thursday afternoon in the Valais not including the valleys of Visp and in the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps, there had been about 10 cm of new fallen snow; from the Jungfrau to the Titlis, as much as 20 cm of snowfall. The temperatures increased. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 2 degrees in western regions and minus 6 degrees in eastern regions. The wind was blowing at moderate velocity from northerly to northwesterly directions, in high alpine regions the wind was intermittently strong.

In the areas of precipitation more than anywhere else, further snowdrift accumulations formed at high altitudes.

Short-term development

On Thursday night, snowfall is anticipated in widespread regions. During the day on Friday, it will remain heavily overcast, but the snowfall will continue only in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons. All in all, on the northern flank of the Alps from the Bernese Oberland to Liechtenstein and in northern and central Grisons, 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow is expected; in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, as much as 30 cm of fresh fallen snow from place to place. In the remaining regions, only a little, or no snow whatsoever will fall. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees in western and southern regions; minus 5 degrees in eastern regions. At high altitudes of the western regions, the northerly wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in the remaining regions the wind will be blowing at strong velocity, during the day even at storm strength. At the highest altitudes, the new fallen snow and to some extent the old snow will be transported.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps not including the western Prealps; Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps not including the western Prealps, in northern Valais, in the Gotthard region, in the regions north of the Anterior Rhine and in the Prättigau, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. New fallen snow and snowdrift are often poorly bonded with the old snowpack and in some places can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Due to the snowfall and storm winds at high altitudes, the avalanche danger level is expected to escalate over the course of the day. Particularly in those regions with the heaviest snowfall from the Jungfrau into the Glarner Alps, naturally triggered avalanches which could attain medium size are expected from high altitude starting zones. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, extensive experience in evaluating avalanche hazards is imperative.

In the southern Valais and in northern Ticino, in both cases excluding the Gotthard region, as well as in the remaining regions of Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2400 m. In wind exposed regions, the snowdrift accumulations are expected to swiftly increase in size and frequency over the course of the day. They occur most often in gullies and bowls; in high alpine regions they are spread out more extensively. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations in particular can be easily triggered and should be avoided.

Western Prealps; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Snowdrift accumulations are found particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas, as well as in gullies and bowls. They are generally small sized, but can be easily triggered in some places and should be evaluated highly critically.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

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**

0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

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

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

Feedback information:

Email: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

In southern regions, it will be partly sunny on Saturday. Elsewhere it will be heavily overcast for the most part on both days. As of Saturday evening, snowfall is anticipated in northern regions in particular. The wind will slacken off. The avalanche danger is expected to incrementally subside. In northern regions, the danger level may increase again slightly on Sunday.

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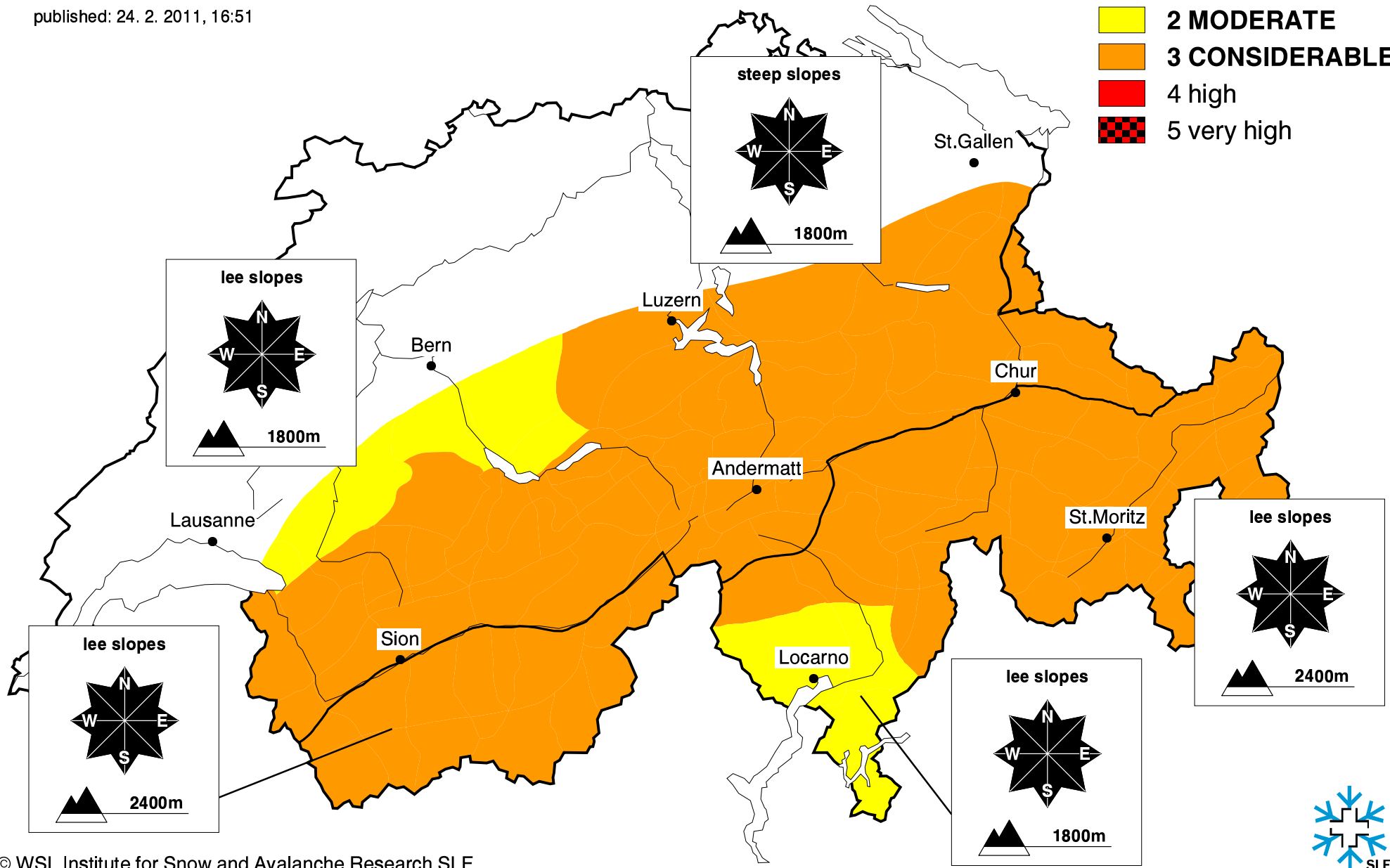
Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 25. 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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