

National avalanche bulletin no. 111

for Sunday, 27 February 2011

issue date 26.2.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is considerable widespread

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny, to begin with. Over the course of the day, clouds moved in from the west. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 1 degree in western regions, minus 1 degree in eastern regions. The wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity from westerly to northerly directions.

Through the solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle, the snowpack surface became moist up to high altitudes on south facing slopes in particular.

Short-term development

On Saturday night, snowfall is expected to set in, which will continue through the day on Sunday. The snowfall level will rapidly drop down to low lying areas. By Sunday evening on the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Valais and in Lower Valais, 15 to 30 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated. From the Upper Valais over northern Ticino and the Surselva to northern Grisons, about 10 cm of fresh fallen snow is expected; further to the south, less or no snow whatsoever. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 5 degrees. The wind will be blowing at moderate velocity from westerly to northerly directions.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, older snowdrift accumulations are prone to triggering from place to place. In addition, due to the new fallen snow, fresh snowdrift accumulations are expected to form in all regions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including the regions upper Saastal and Simplon; northern Ticino; Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps and in northern Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. The new fallen snow is particularly prone to triggering in those places where it has been transported by the wind. Furthermore, it blankets over older snowdrift accumulations which are themselves trigger sensitive, which makes evaluating the hazards on the spot more difficult. The peril is expected to increase over the course of the day, due to the snowfall.

In southern Valais not including the regions of upper Saastal and Simplon, in northern Ticino and in Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. The major danger stems from older snowdrift accumulations. They are often to be found in areas adjacent to ridge lines, in gullies and in bowls and can be easily triggered in some places. Due to the fresh fallen snow, they can be recognized only with great difficulty. Particularly in Lower Valais, the avalanche danger, amidst snowfall, is expected to escalate over the course of the day.

In all regions of this danger level, avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Tours in outlying terrain require experience in the evaluation of avalanche hazards.

Upper Saastal; Simplon region; 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 2000 m. Snowdrift accumulations occur most frequently 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. They should be assessed with great care.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

During the morning hours of Monday, a bit of additional snowfall is anticipated in northern regions in particular. Elsewhere it will be predominantly overcast. On Tuesday in northern regions, it will be sunny above the high fog; in southern 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)

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)

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generally cloudy. On Monday, the avalanche danger is not expected to change significantly. On Tuesday, the danger will recede somewhat.

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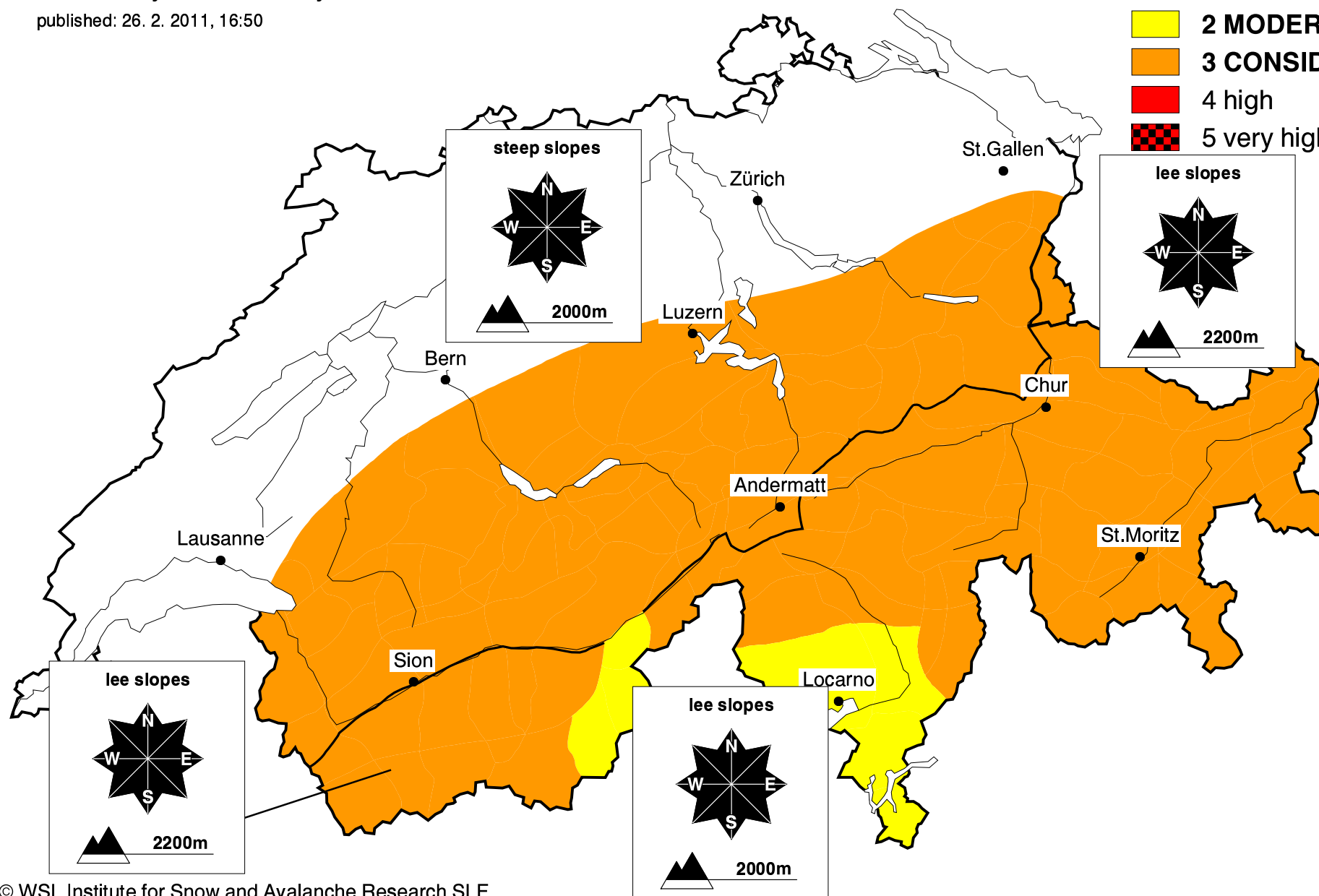
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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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-  5 very high

