

National avalanche bulletin no. 115

for Thursday, 3 March 2011

issue date 2.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger levels are moderate and considerable

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was predominantly sunny in the Swiss Alps. In the furthest south, it was cloudy. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 6 degrees in southern regions. In northern regions the wind was blowing at moderate to strong velocity during the night, during the day today at moderate strength, from easterly directions.

The snow which fell last week was often deposited on top of faceted, soft layers of old snow, particularly on north facing slopes, and is still prone to triggering in some places. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps more than anywhere else, and in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in general, fresh snowdrift accumulations have formed.

Short-term development

On Thursday in northern regions it is expected to be generally sunny, despite high altitude cloudbanks. On the southern flank of the Alps it will be partly overcast, in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge predominantly so. As much as 10 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated in those regions. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 2 degrees in northern regions and minus 4 degrees in southern regions. The wind will be blowing at light to moderate strength from southeasterly to southerly directions.

Over the course of the day, particularly in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, small sized snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps; Lower Valais; western part of the Main Alpine Ridge; Goms; northern and central Grisons; Upper Engadine north of the Inn River; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to eastern exposition, as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in all expositions, above approximately 1800 m. Those layers of snow nearest to the uppermost surface, as well as freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, can be easily triggered in some places. Avalanches which are released can attain medium size.

In the Lower Valais, in the Valais sector of the Main Alpine Ridge and in Urseren, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to eastern exposition, as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in all expositions, above approximately 2400 m. The hazardous zones are most prevalent in the upper Saastal and the southern Simplon region.

In northern and central Grisons, in the Upper Engadine north of the Inn River, in the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in southwestern to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2200 m, as well as in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas in all expositions. The major peril stems from freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations.

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

Upper Valais north of the Main Alpine Ridge; central part of the southern flank of the Alps; Upper Engadine south of the Inn River; Bergell; Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 2000 m. In the Upper Valais north of the Main Alpine Ridge, they are found in all expositions, elsewhere in western to northern to eastern exposition. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations are predominantly small sized, but can be easily triggered in places. They should be assessed with caution.

Through the effects of the daytime warming cycle and solar radiation, moist sluffs and loose snow avalanches can be expected in rock-studded starting zones, particularly on very steep, south facing slopes.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Thursday night in the western part of the Main Alpine Ridge, a small amount of additional snowfall is anticipated. During the day on Friday, it will be generally sunny in northern regions, increasingly so in southern regions. On Saturday, it will be predominantly sunny. The hazards of dry avalanches will gradually subside. The perils of moist avalanches will be somewhat contingent on the daytime warming cycle each day.

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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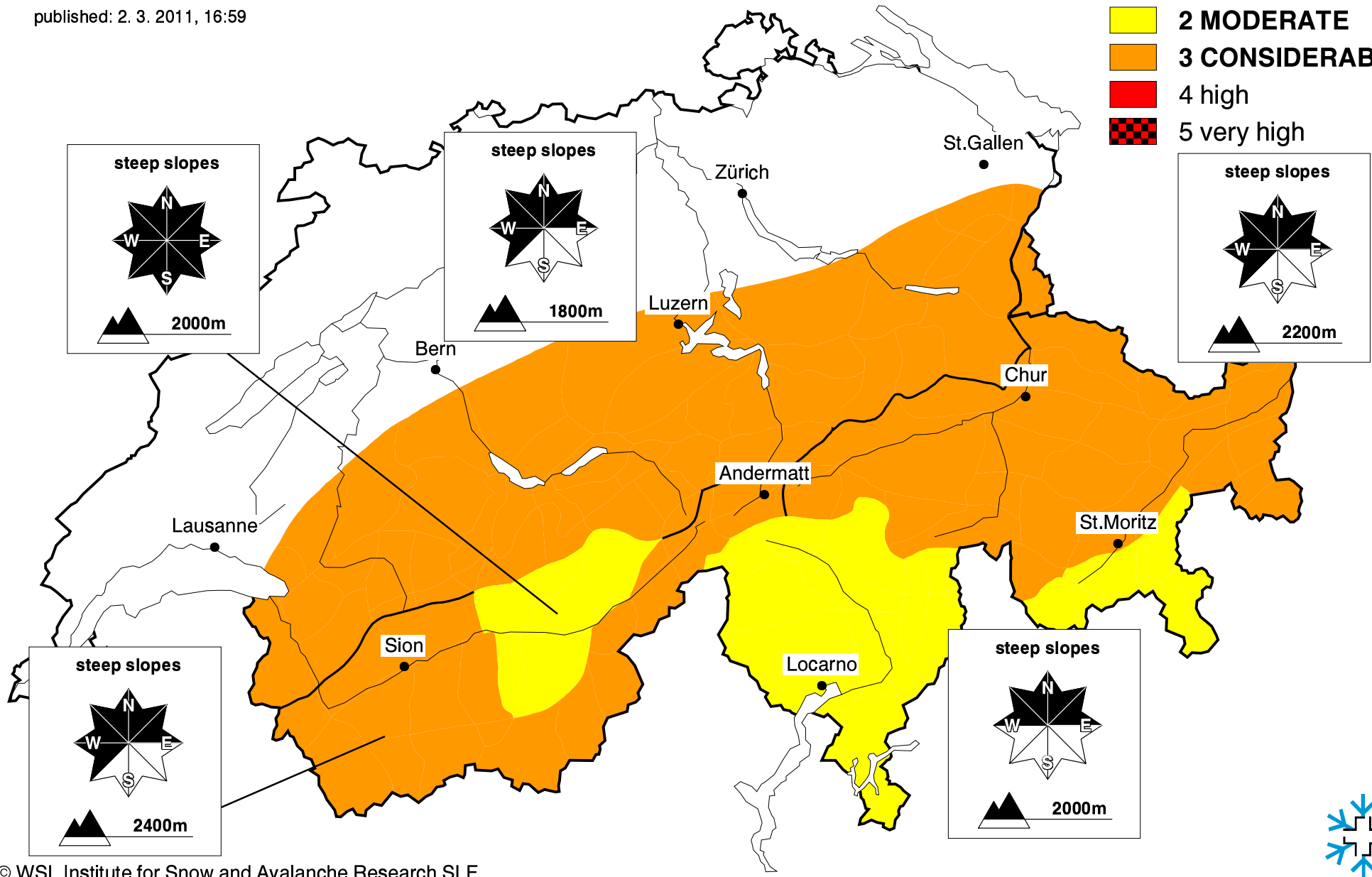
Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 3. March 2011

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 3. March 2011

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Danger level

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

