

# National avalanche bulletin no. 116

for Friday, 4 March 2011

issue date 3.3.2011, 18:30 hours

*Avalanche danger levels are moderate and considerable, beware snowdrift*

## Current conditions

On Thursday along the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais it was predominantly sunny, in Grisons partly so. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, it was generally cloudy and there was a few centimeters of snowfall. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 5 degrees. The southerly wind was blowing at light to moderate strength.

The fresh fallen snow from last week was often deposited on top of faceted, loosely packed layers of old snow, particularly on north facing slopes, and is still prone to triggering in some places. Freshly formed, generally small sized snowdrift accumulations are to be found primarily in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas.

## Short-term development

On Thursday night in northern regions the skies will be clear; in southern regions, some snowfall is anticipated. By Friday morning on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, maximum 5 cm of snowfall is anticipated; on the Main Alpine Ridge in Upper Valais, as much as 15 cm of new fallen snow. During the day on Friday, it will be predominantly sunny in northern regions, increasingly so in southern regions. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 1 degree in southern regions. The southerly wind will increase in strength in the course of Thursday night and be blowing at moderate to strong velocity. During the day on Friday, winds will shift to easterly and be blowing at light to moderate strength. Fresh snowdrift accumulations are expected to form on the Main Alpine Ridge more than anywhere else.

## Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren; Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to Furka Pass; inneralpine regions of Grisons not including Upper Engadine; in addition, northern Surselva; Flims-Untervaz; southern Prättigau; Lower Engadine south of the Inn River; 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 in western to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2000 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. Along the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the Furka Pass, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. The major peril stems from the fresh fallen snow of this week, together with the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations.

In the inneralpine regions of Grisons not including the Upper Engadine, in the northern Surselva, in Flims-Untervaz, in southern Prättigau, in the Lower Engadine south of the Inn River and in the Münstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of western to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2200 m. The major hazard stems from freshly formed, as well as somewhat 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.

Lower Valais; Upper Valais not including Main Alpine Ridge; Main Alpine Ridge from Furka Pass into the Bernina region as well as the regions southwards therefrom; Upper Engadine; northern Prättigau; Silvretta; Samnaun:

### *Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

In the Lower Valais, in the Upper Valais not including the Main Alpine Ridge, in northern Prättigau, in the Silvretta and in Samnaun, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the hazardous zones are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations are generally small sized, but can be easily triggered in some places. They should be evaluated with great care. In high alpine regions, the avalanche danger level is considerable (Level 3).

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 Saturday and Sunday

On both days, it is expected to be predominantly sunny. On Sunday, temperatures will decrease, accompanied by northerly winds. The avalanche danger will recede somewhat to begin with, but on Sunday it can escalate again slightly from region to region.

### 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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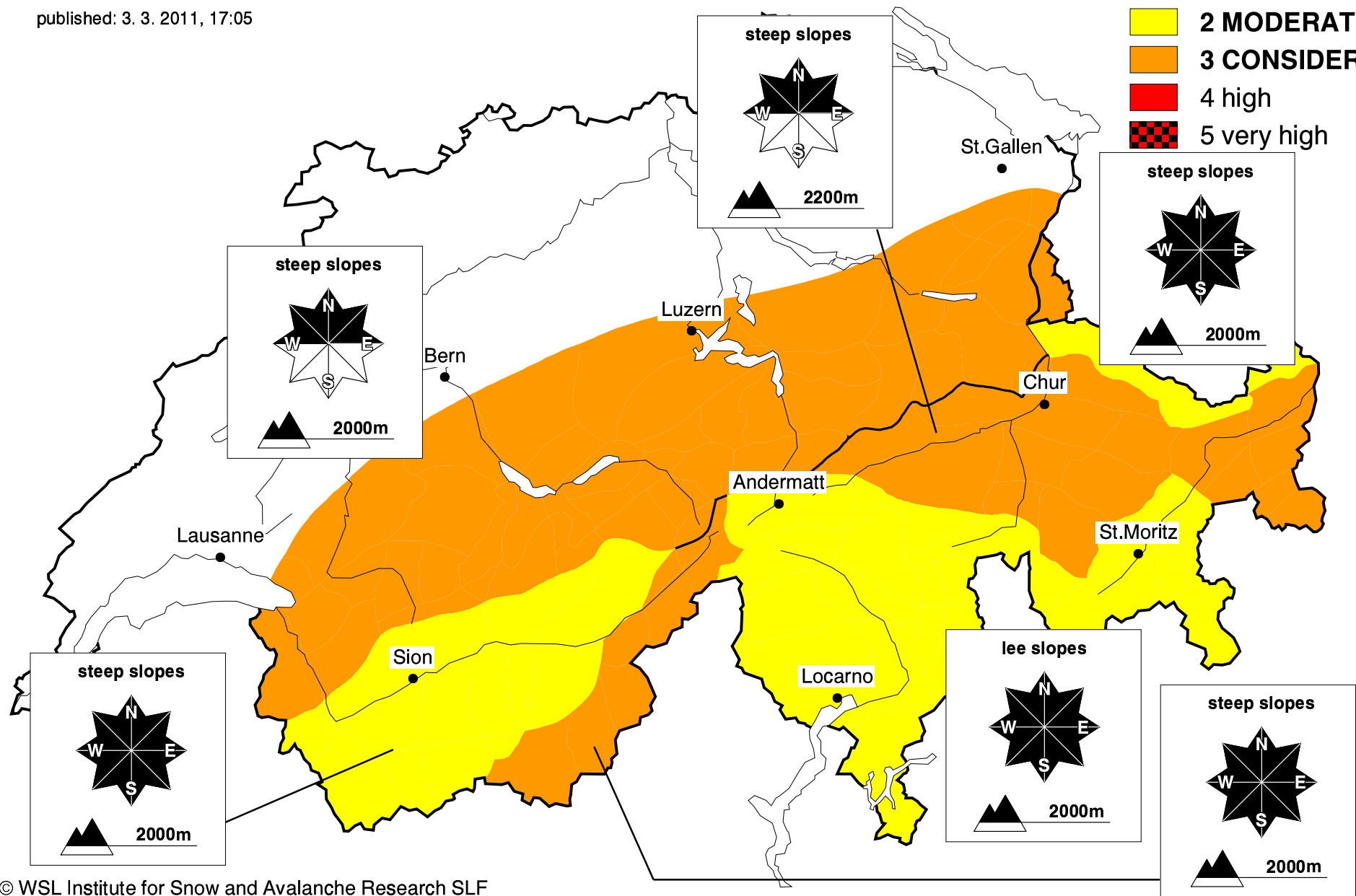
# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 4. March 2011

published: 3. 3. 2011, 17:05

Danger level

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








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 4. March 2011

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Danger level

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

