

National avalanche bulletin no. 117

for Saturday, 5 March 2011

issue date 4.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger levels range from moderate to considerable

Current conditions

On Friday in western regions it was predominantly sunny, in southern and eastern regions increasingly so. By Friday morning on the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom, there had been maximum 10 cm of snowfall, from the Saastal into the Binntal as much as 25 cm of fresh fallen snow. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 1 degree. In the northern part of the Alpine Ridge west of the Reuss, the wind was blowing at moderate to strong velocity, elsewhere at light to moderate strength, from southeasterly directions.

In northern regions more than anywhere else, there are faceted, loosely packed layers of old snow embedded inside the snowpack which are prone to triggering in many areas. Released avalanches and weak snow profiles make clear that these weak layers must be taken into consideration at altitudes as of the treeline. In addition, in all regions of the Swiss Alps, there are freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas.

Short-term development

On Saturday it will be predominantly sunny, accompanied intermittently by high altitude cloudbanks. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. The wind in northern regions will be blowing at moderate velocity, in southern regions at light strength, from northeasterly directions. Amidst these winds, the loosely packed old snow will be transported, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines. This will give rise to snowdrift accumulations, most of them small sized.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern flank of the Alps; northern Lower Valais; Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to Furka Pass; central Grisons; northern Grisons not including the regions of northern Prättigau and Silvretta:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren and in northern Lower Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to eastern exposition 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.

On the Main Alpine Ridge from the Matterhorn to the Furka Pass, in Urseren, in central Grisons and in northern Grisons not including the regions of northern Prättigau and Silvretta, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2200 m. The snowdrift accumulations of the last few days have been partially covered over by new fallen snow, making them especially difficult to recognize. Avalanches can in some places be fractured from more deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack.

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.

Southern Lower Valais; Upper Valais not including Main Alpine Ridge; Ticino; northern Prättigau; Silvretta; Engadine; southern valleys of Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed and older snowdrift accumulations are for the most part small sized but can be easily triggered in some areas. Since the hazardous zones are blanketed over by fresh fallen snow in some places, a cautious route selection is particularly important. In high alpine regions, the avalanche danger level is considerable (Level 3).

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday in northern regions it is expected to be partly sunny. In southern regions it will be sunny and mild, accompanied by northerly winds. On Monday in northern regions, it will be sunny above the high fog, in southern regions predominantly overcast. The avalanche danger is expected to subside incrementally.

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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(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>

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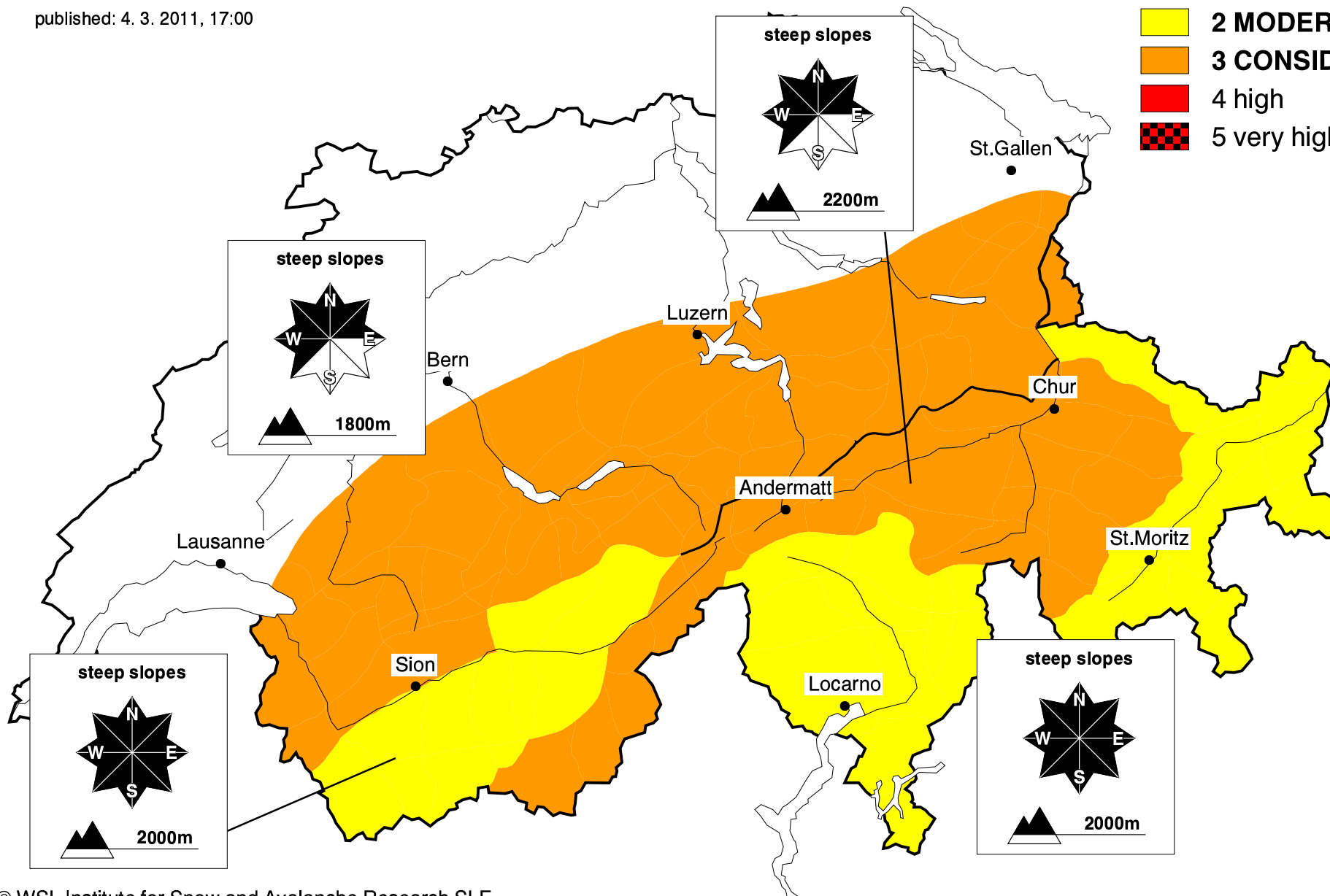
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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 5. March 2011

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Danger level

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

