

National avalanche bulletin no. 118

for Sunday, 6 March 2011

issue date 5.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche situation is generally favourable, but in some regions also treacherous

Current conditions

On Saturday it was sunny in the Swiss Alps. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 2 degrees in northern regions and plus 1 degree in southern regions. The northeasterly wind was blowing at light to moderate strength.

In northern and inneralpine regions more than anywhere else, there are loosely packed, trigger sensitive layers of old snow embedded inside in the snowpack in some places. These weak layers are to some extent evident as of treeline altitude. In all regions of the Swiss Alps, in addition, there are small sized snowdrift accumulations, particularly in areas adjacent to ridge lines and pass areas.

Short-term development

On Sunday it will be predominantly sunny in all regions. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be zero degrees. The northeasterly wind will be blowing at moderate velocity.

Over the course of the day, the layers of the snowpack nearest the uppermost surface will be moistened and, to some extent, become prone to triggering, particularly on south facing slopes, amidst intensifying solar radiation and the mild daytime temperatures.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Western part of the northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; Main Alpine Ridge from Great St.

Bernard to, and including, Binntal; inneralpine regions of northern and central Grisons:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to eastern exposition. In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, the treacherous zones are found above approximately 2000 m; in the remaining regions, above approximately 2200 m. The layers of snow nearest the uppermost surface of the snowpack, together with freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, can in some places be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Avalanches which are released can attain medium size. For tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, experience in the evaluation of avalanche hazards is essential.

Prealps; central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to, and including, Binntal; Ticino; Grisons not including the inneralpine regions of northern and central Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in southwestern to northern to southeastern exposition. In the Prealps and in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, the hazardous zones are found above approximately 1800 m; in the remaining regions, above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed and older, generally small sized, snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered in some places. In the southern regions, the avalanche prone locations are lightly blanketed over with new fallen snow, making them nearly impossible to recognize. For that reason, a prudent route selection is of particular importance in those regions. In high alpine regions, the danger zones are more widespread than below 3000 m.

Over the course of the day in all regions of the Swiss Alps on sunny slopes below approximately 2500 m, moist sluffs and, in isolated cases, avalanches can be expected.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday and Tuesday in northern regions, it will be sunny. On Monday in central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, light precipitation is likely. On Tuesday, it will be sunny again in those regions as well. The avalanche danger is expected to gradually subside.

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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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>

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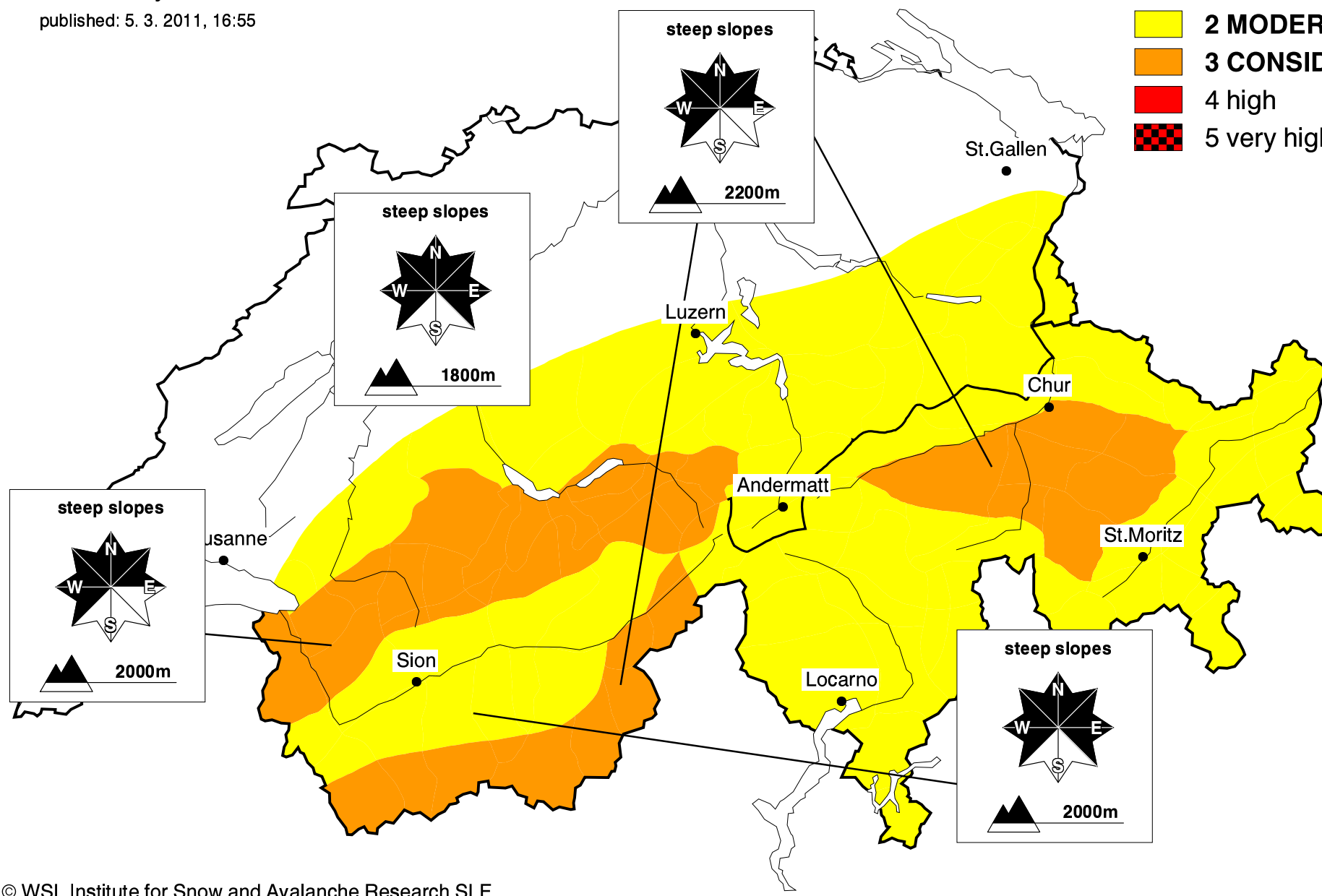
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 6. March 2011

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 6. March 2011

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Danger level

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

