

National avalanche bulletin no. 122

for Thursday, 10 March 2011

issue date 9.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Predominantly favourable avalanche situation, with treacherous spots in unfrequented terrain

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was sunny in the Swiss Alps. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 2 and plus 2 degrees. The wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity from northwesterly directions. Poorly consolidated intermediate layers are often interspersed inside the snowpack. At altitudes above the treeline, such layers are more widespread than at still higher altitudes which have been under heavy wind influence. The snowpack displays an increasingly reduced tendency toward fracture propagation. In the region from the central part of the southern flank of the Alps into the Upper Engadine, the snow layering is more favourable. During the morning hours, steep south facing slopes are capable of bearing loads up towards 3000 m in many places.

Short-term development

On Wednesday night, the skies will be generally clear. During the day on Thursday, it will be predominantly sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between zero degrees and minus 3 degrees. The wind will be blowing from westerly to northwesterly directions. In the furthest northern regions and in high alpine regions, it will blow at moderate to strong velocity, elsewhere at light to moderate strength widespread. Small sized snowdrift accumulations can form from place to place.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Simplon region; Binntal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of western to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2000 m. Avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Seldom frequented slopes should be evaluated with particularly great care.

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including Simplon region and not including Binntal; Ticino; Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of northwestern to northern to eastern exposition. On the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, they occur above approximately 1800 m, elsewhere above approximately 2200 m. Older and generally thin snowdrift accumulations, more than anything else, should be assessed with great care. Particularly in those places where they have been deposited on top of weak, coarse grained layers of old snow, even a single person can trigger avalanches which then can sweep along more large scaled surface areas in some places. The hazardous zones are not widespread, however. The peril, in general, is more pronounced in seldom frequented terrain than in the remaining regions. A prudent route selection is important.

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

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday it is expected to be predominantly sunny. On Saturday in southern regions, light snowfall is anticipated. In northern regions, foehn wind conditions will arise. The avalanche danger may escalate somewhat on Saturday in southern regions, due to the snowfall; and in northern regions, due to the foehn wind and daytime warmth.

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>

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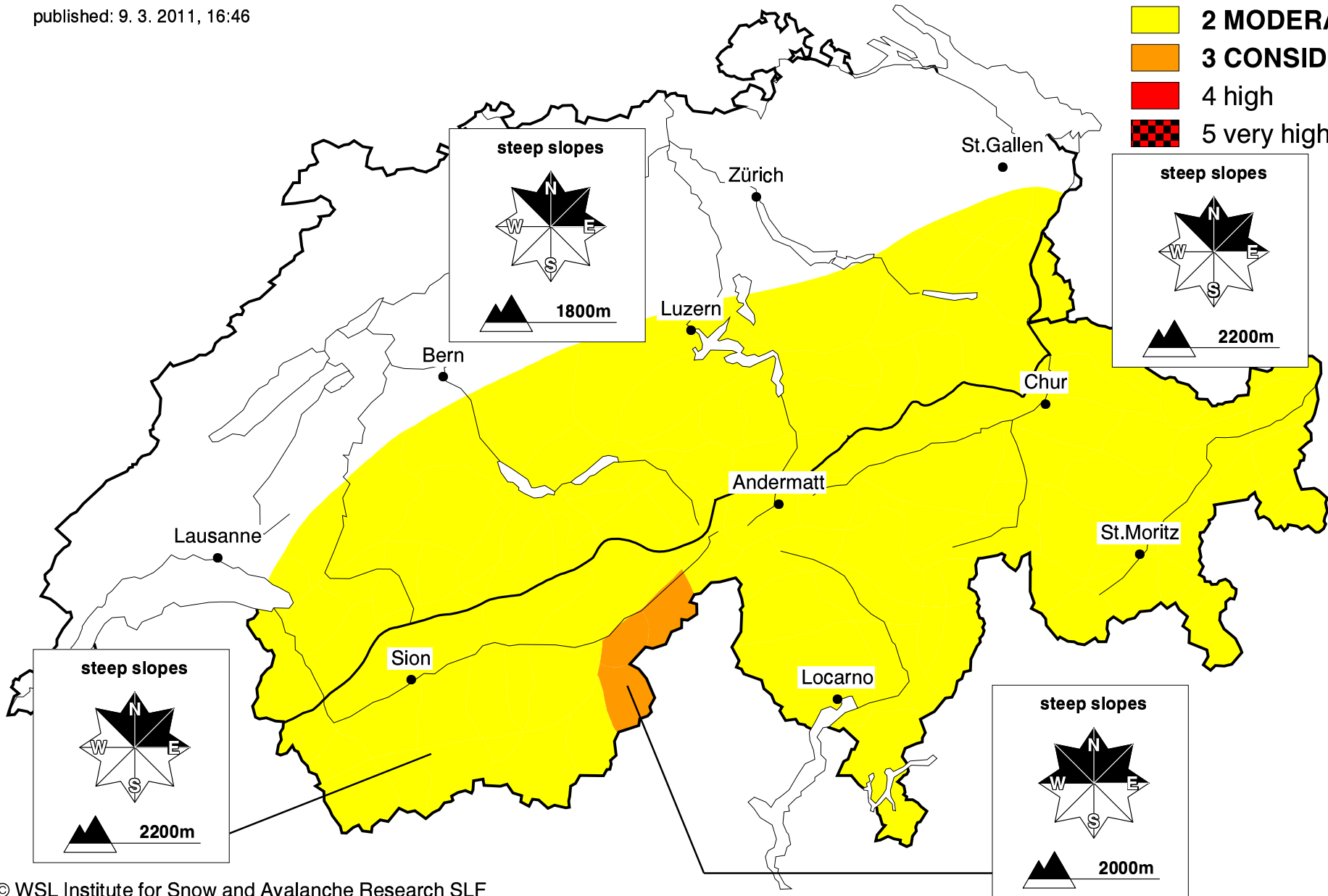
Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 10. March 2011

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

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

