

National avalanche bulletin no. 123

for Friday, 11 March 2011

issue date 10.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger extends from low to moderate

Current conditions

On Thursday it was predominantly sunny, apart from the high altitude cloudbanks in northern regions. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 2 degrees in northern regions and plus 2 degrees in southern regions. The wind in the Valais and on the northern flank of the Alps was blowing at moderate velocity, elsewhere generally at light strength from westerly to southwesterly directions.

Inside the snowpack, poorly consolidated intermediate layers are often interspersed with the other layers. These are more widespread at altitudes just above the treeline than at still higher altitudes which have been heavily influenced by winds. The snowpack displays an increasingly reduced tendency towards 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 have a crust which can usually bear loads up to nearly 3000 m. The snow line on shady slopes is between 1000 m on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Lower Valais and in Grisons, and 1400 m in the Upper Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps. On sunny slopes, it is approximately 500 m higher.

Short-term development

On Thursday night, the skies will be clear. During the day on Friday, it is expected to be sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between zero and plus 3 degrees. The wind will be blowing at light to moderate velocity and shift from westerly to southerly.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren; Valais not including central Lower Valais; northern Grisons; central Grisons not including Avers; Upper Engadine north of the Inn River; Lower Engadine; Müntertal:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of northwestern to northern to northeastern exposition. On the northern flank of the Alps not including Urseren, the danger zones are above approximately 2000 m, elsewhere above approximately 2200 m. The old and predominantly thin snowdrift accumulations, more than anything else, should be evaluated with special care. Particularly in those places where they have been deposited on top of weak layers of coarse grained old snow, avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider, and subsequently sweep along large scale surface areas with them. The avalanche prone locations, however, are not widespread. The hazards, in general, are more pronounced in seldom frequented terrain than in the other regions. A cautious route selection is essential.

Central Lower Valais; Urseren; central part of the southern flank of the Alps; Avers; Upper Engadine south of the Inn River; Bergell; Puschlav:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on very steep, shady slopes above approximately 2200 m. In particular, older snowdrift accumulations which have been deposited on top of coarse grained old snow should be assessed with particularly great care.

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

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

Southerly foehn wind conditions are developing. On the southern flank of the Alps, snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1000 m; on Saturday, only a few additional centimeters, then on Sunday, as much as 30 cm of fresh fallen snow. In northern regions the skies are expected to be bright, amidst mild temperatures, accompanied by strong velocity foehn winds. The avalanche danger will escalate in southern regions on Saturday, due to the new fallen snow; and in northern regions, due to the wind and warm temperatures.

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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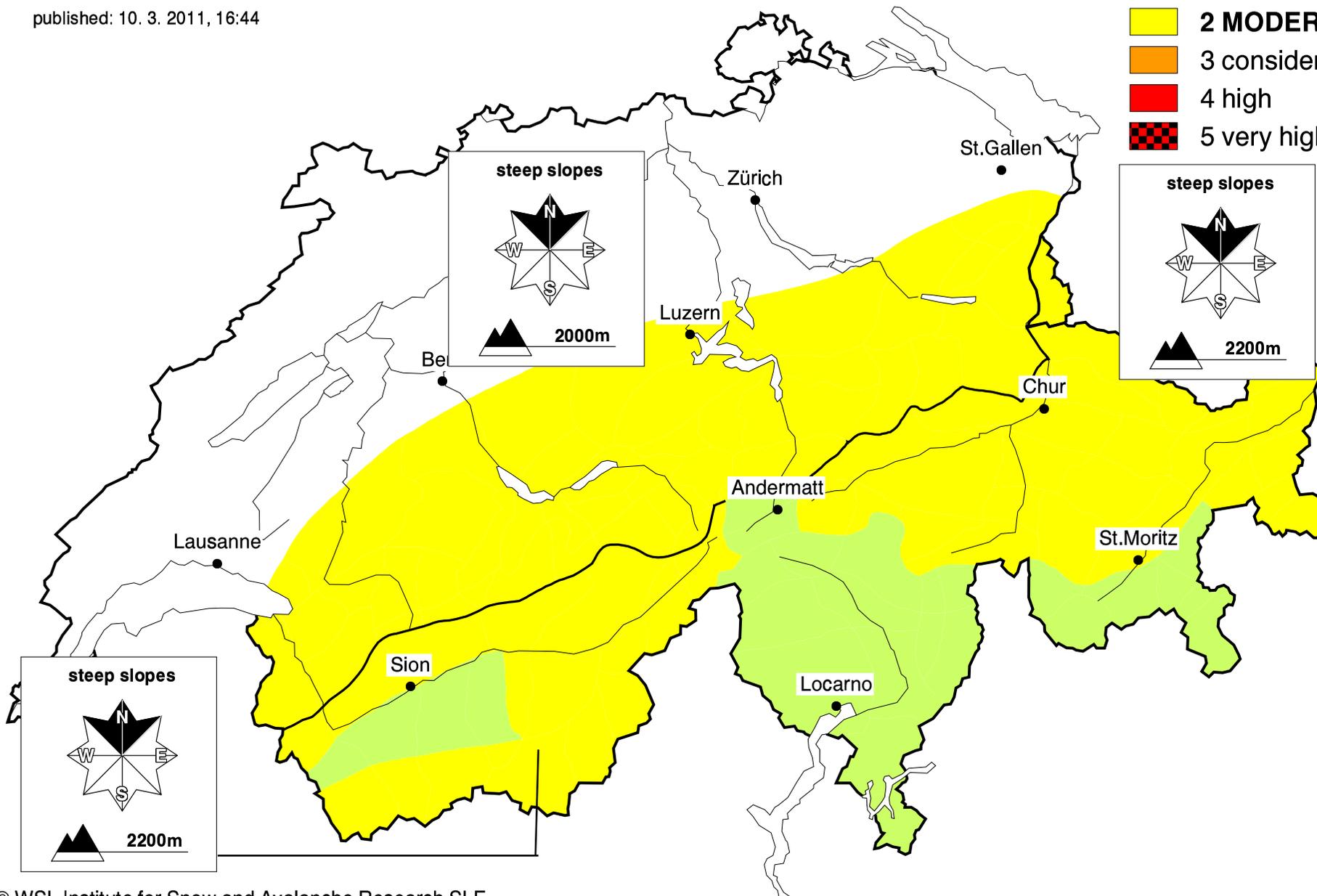
Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 11. March 2011

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Danger level

-  1 **LOW**
-  2 **MODERATE**
-  3 **considerable**
-  4 **high**
-  5 **very high**



Avalanche danger forecast

for Friday, 11. March 2011

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Danger level

-  **1 LOW**
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 considerable**
-  **4 high**
-  **5 very high**

