

National avalanche bulletin no. 125

for Sunday, 13 March 2011

issue date 12.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Caution urged towards fresh snowdrift

Current conditions

During the morning hours of Saturday in northern regions there were still bright intervals. Then in the afternoon, clouds swept in rapidly. In southern regions it was overcast, subsequently light precipitation set in. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between plus 4 degrees in the foehn exposed regions of the north and minus 3 degrees on the southern flank of the Alps. The southerly wind was blowing at moderate strength on the southern flank of the Alps, elsewhere it was strong. Over the course of the day, increasing amounts of snow were transported, particularly in the foehn influenced regions on the northern flank of the Alps. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered, but generally are small sized.

Short-term development

On Sunday, the southerly foehn winds will intensify. On the Main Alpine Ridge from the Monte Rosa region into the Bernina region and southwards therefrom, 20 to 40 cm of snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will be at 1000 m. In the regions bordering on the north and on the remaining Main Alpine Ridge, 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow is expected. Further to the north, hardly any snowfall is anticipated. The southerly wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity on the southern flank of the Alps and will transport the fresh fallen snow in particular. In the remaining regions, the foehn wind will blow at strong to storm velocity and transport even the old snow. The freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered and are expected to grow in size and frequency over the course of the day.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations on the Main Alpine Ridge from Saastal to the Bernina Pass and southwards therefrom are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to southeastern exposition above approximately 1800 m. On the northern flank of the Alps not including the Gotthard region, in the remaining Valais and in remaining Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes of western to northern to eastern exposition. In the indicated regions of the northern flank of the Alps, the hazardous zones are above approximately 1600 m, in the indicated regions of the Valais and Grisons, the danger zones are above approximately 2200 m.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. In the major areas of precipitation in southern regions, these hazardous zones are more widespread than in the remaining regions. The snowdrift accumulations are poorly bonded with the old snowpack and can be easily triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. A prudent route selection is important.

Below approximately 2500 m, moist sluffs and, in isolated cases, wet snow avalanches are possible, particularly in the foehn influenced regions.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday, the precipitation will taper off in southern regions. On Tuesday afternoon in southern regions, a new phase of precipitation will set in. In northern regions, it is expected to be quite sunny on both days. The wind will slacken off significantly. The avalanche danger will recede.

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

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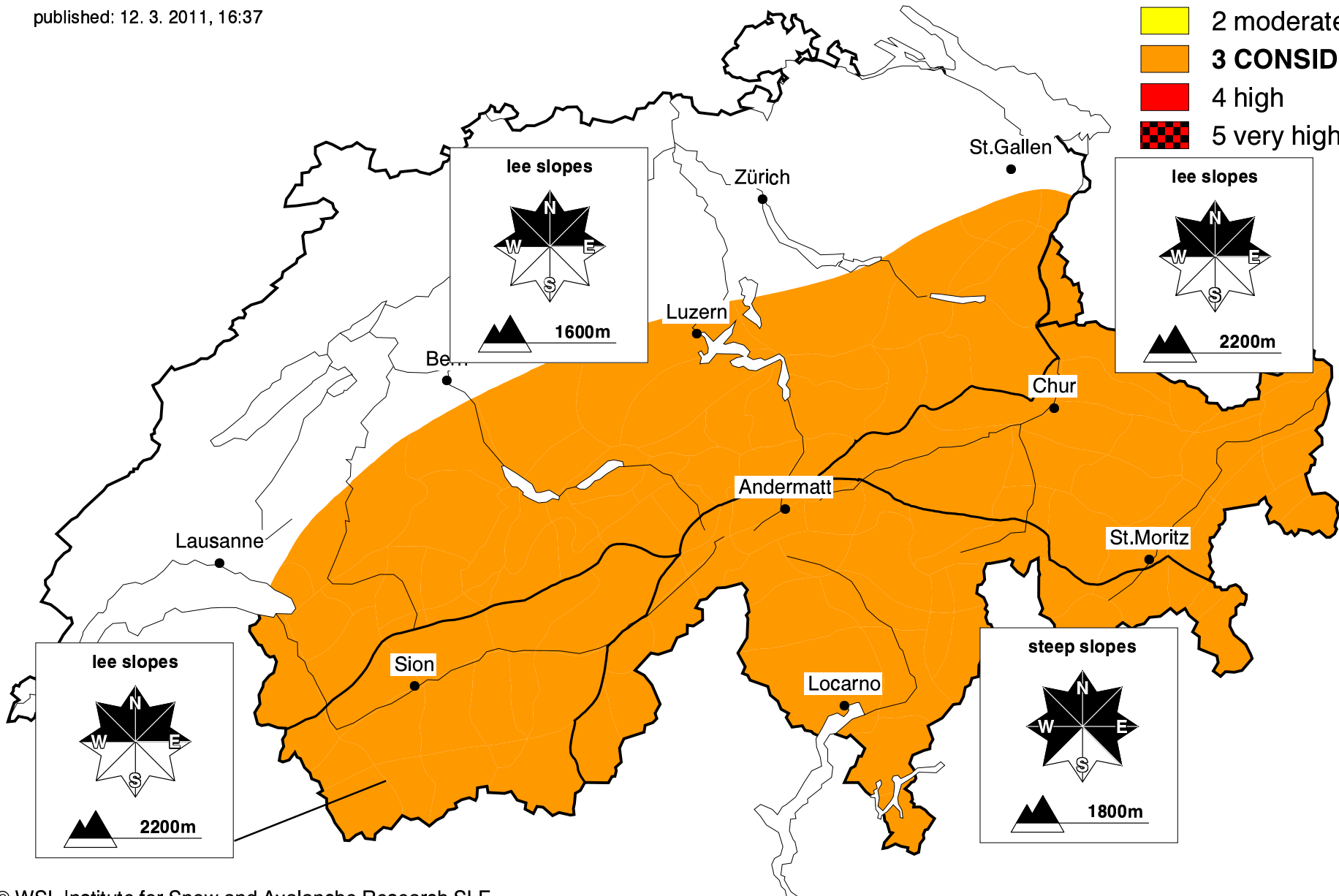
Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 13. March 2011

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Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 13. March 2011

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Danger level

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

