

National avalanche bulletin no. 130

for Friday, 18 March 2011

issue date 17.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger, treacherous avalanche situation in outlying terrain

Current conditions

On Thursday it was heavily overcast. In southern regions, the precipitation tapered off; in northern regions, it intensified. Between Tuesday and Thursday above approximately 2400 m on the Main Alpine Ridge from Saastal over southern Goms into the Bedrettal as well as in the Maggia valleys, there was 60 to 80 cm of snowfall, in the immediately bordering regions 40 to 60 cm. On the remaining Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom as well as in remaining Upper Valais, there was 20 to 40 cm of snowfall, elsewhere 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow widespread. The snowfall level dropped from 2000 m down to about 1500 m on Thursday. The wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity from northerly directions. The old snowpack is thoroughly wet in all expositions below 2000 to 2200 m. Particularly on west to north to east facing slopes, the old snowpack is prone to triggering.

Short-term development

On Thursday night in Ticino, the skies will clear up, elsewhere it will remain heavily overcast. In northern regions, snowfall is anticipated. During the day on Friday, the snowfall will taper off somewhat. In the Valais and on the southern flank of the Alps, it will turn increasingly sunny. Between Thursday evening and Friday evening above approximately 1500 m in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps and from Prättigau over the Silvretta into the Samnaun, 20 to 30 cm of fresh fallen snow is anticipated, from place to place as much as 40 cm. On the remaining northern flank of the Alps and in northern and central Grisons, 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow is anticipated, elsewhere only a few centimeters. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 3 degrees in northern regions, zero degrees in southern regions. The northerly wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity. At high altitudes, fresh snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, from the upper valleys of Visp over the Simplon region into southern Goms, in Ticino and in Grisons, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. The new fallen snow of the last few days, together with the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, are the main source of danger. Particularly in the southern regions of the Upper Valais, in Ticino, in the Engadine and in the southern valleys of Grisons, naturally triggered avalanches are possible. Avalanches can sweep along more deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack and attain medium size.

In the western part of the northern flank of the Alps, in the Lower Valais and in the remaining regions of the Upper Valais, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2200 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, more than anything else, are prone to triggering. On north facing slopes, avalanches can fracture deeper down in the old snowpack.

In all regions, avalanches can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. For tours and freeriding descents in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, experience in the evaluation of avalanche hazards, as well as great caution, are essential.

In all regions, wet and moist avalanches continue to be possible below approximately 2200 m. This is particularly the case on steep slopes which have not yet discharged, even slopes of northern exposition.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday in northern regions, it will be cloudy to begin with; in eastern regions, a small amount of additional snowfall is anticipated. In western and southern regions, it will turn increasingly sunny. On Sunday, it is expected to be predominantly sunny. The activity of naturally triggered dry and wet avalanches will recede. To begin with, however, the avalanche situation in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs will remain treacherous for backcountry skiers and freeriders.

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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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Avalanche danger forecast

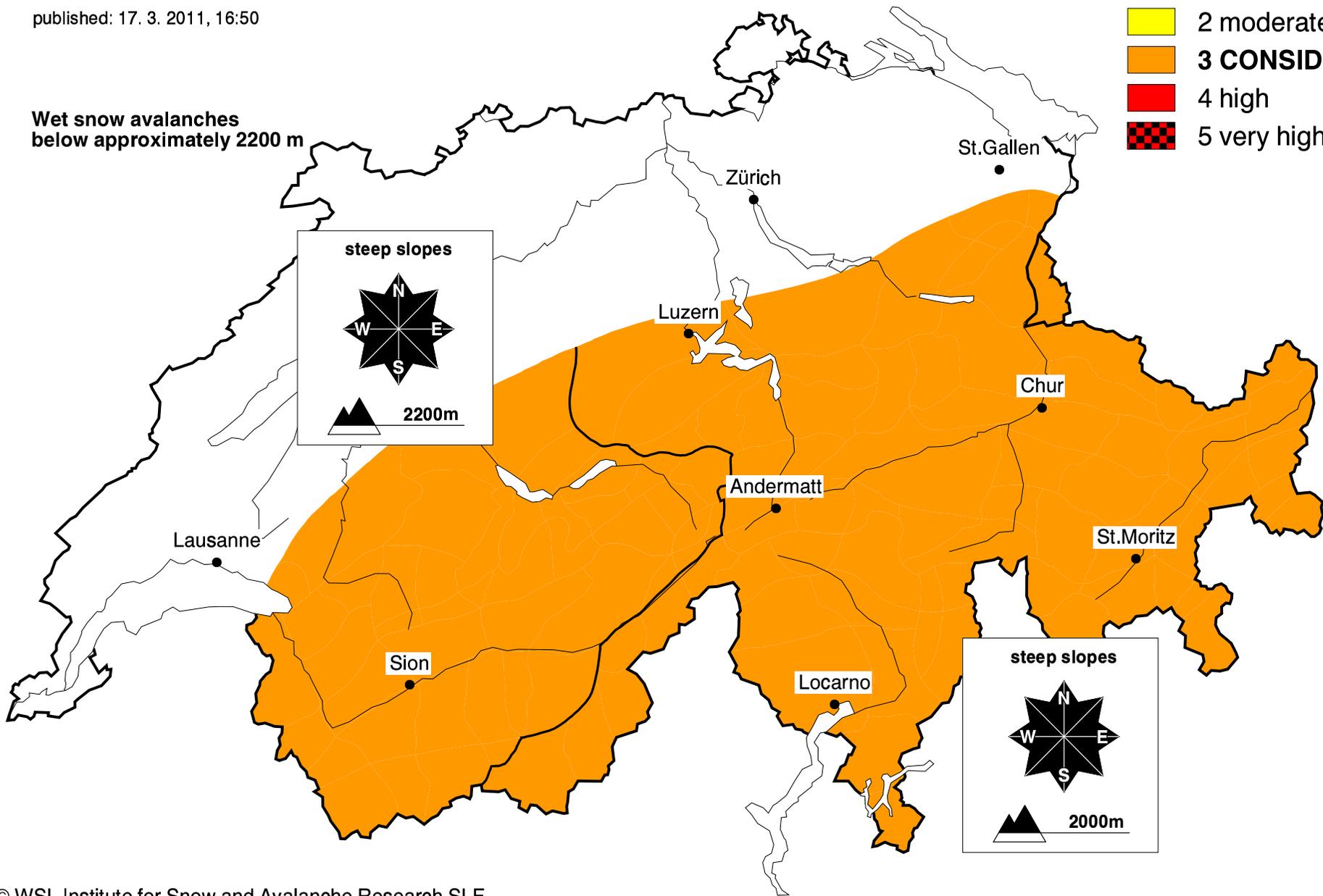
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Wet snow avalanches
below approximately 2200 m

Danger level

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



Avalanche danger forecast

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below approximately 2200 m

Danger level

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

