

National avalanche bulletin no. 133

for Monday, 21 March 2011

issue date 20.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger is considerable widespread, caution towards daytime warming cycle

Current conditions

On Sunday it was predominantly sunny, after the residual clouds dispersed. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 1 degree in western and southern regions and minus 4 degrees in eastern regions. During the night the wind was blowing at moderate to strong velocity particularly on the northern flank of the Alps, during the day today, it blew at light to moderate velocity, from northeasterly directions.

The old snowpack is thoroughly wet in all expositions below about 2200 m. The new fallen snow and snowdrift of this last week have been deposited, particularly on west to north to east facing slopes, on top of a weak old snowpack and is prone to triggering from region to region.

Short-term development

Following a night of clear skies, it will be sunny on Monday. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 1 degree in northwestern regions and minus 3 degrees in southeastern regions. The wind will be blowing at moderate strength on the northern flank of the Alps, elsewhere at light to moderate velocity, from northeasterly to easterly directions. In high alpine regions, the wind will be strong. Additional snowdrift accumulations are expected to form.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps not including the regions central Ticino, Sotto Ceneri, Val Calanca, Val Moesa:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

On the northern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2000 m. In the Valais and in northern Ticino, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2400 m. In Grisons not including the two regions of Val Calanca and Val Moesa, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of southwestern to northern to southeastern exposition above approximately 2200 m.

In all regions of this danger level, the major peril stems from the new fallen snow from this last week, together with the freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. Avalanches which attain medium size are possible. On north facing slopes, more than anywhere else, avalanches can be triggered which fracture down deeper in the old snowpack. In addition, the more recently formed snowdrift accumulations should be avoided whenever possible.

For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, experience in the evaluation of avalanche danger is imperative. Through the daytime warming cycle, the likelihood of dry avalanches being triggered is expected to escalate somewhat over the course of the day.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri; Val Calanca; Val Moesa:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. A cautious route selection, together with maintaining distances, are important.

In all regions, the danger of wet snow avalanches is expected to heighten over the course of the day. Below about 2400 m, on south facing slopes below about 3000 m, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches are possible. Particularly on north facing slopes between 1800 and 2200 m, backcountry skiers and freeriders in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs can trigger avalanches in the thoroughly wet old snowpack.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On both days it is expected to be sunny. The easterly wind will slacken off and the temperatures are expected to rise. The danger of dry avalanches will incrementally subside. The daytime warming cycle will make the peril of wet snow avalanches more pronounced. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours should be brought to an end early in the day.

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)	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) Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min) Feedback information: Email: lwp@slf.ch Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88
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)		






Avalanche danger forecast

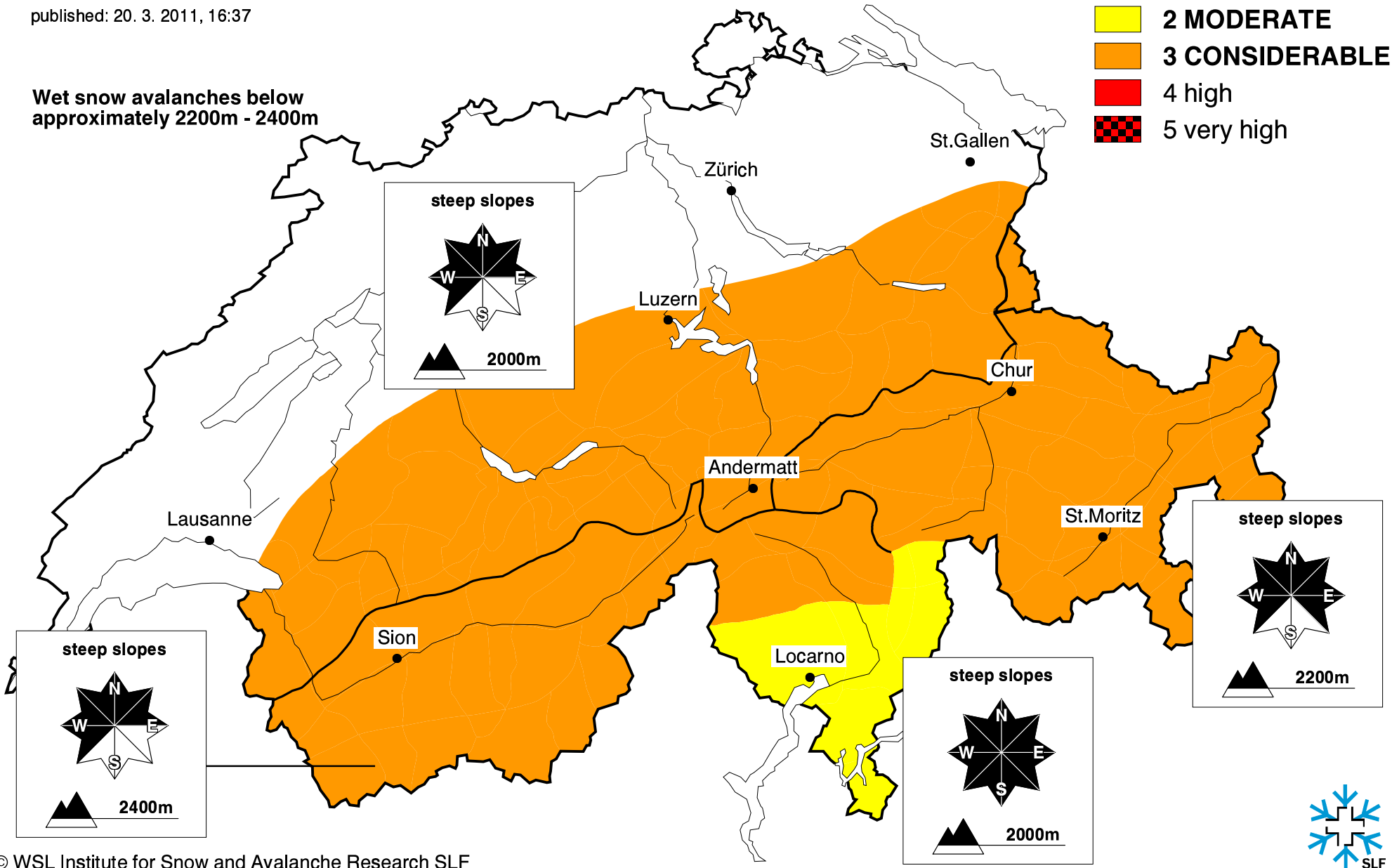
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Wet snow avalanches below
approximately 2200m - 2400m

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

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Wet snow avalanches below
approximately 2200m - 2400m

Danger level

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

