



National avalanche bulletin no. 138

for Saturday, 26 March 2011

issue date 25.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger both considerable and moderate, caution urged on north facing slopes

Current conditions

On Friday it was sunny. During the afternoon, isolated convective cloud built up. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 4 degrees. The wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity from southwesterly directions.

On north facing slopes more than anywhere else, layers of bonded snow lie on top of a soft, faceted old snowpack. These bonded layers are prone to triggering from place to place, particularly in the southern regions of the Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons. During the morning hours, south facing slopes are capable of bearing loads, but subsequently soften up over the course of the day. On east and west facing slopes, the surface crust of the snowpack is capable of bearing loads only to a certain extent, and in some places.

Short-term development

On Friday night, the skies are expected to be predominantly clear. On Saturday morning, it will be partly sunny. During the afternoon, clouds will move in from the north and scattered showers are possible. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be plus 3 degrees. The wind will be blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to northwesterly directions.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to the Monte Rosa region; Val d'Anniviers; Turtmanntal; lower valleys of Visp; northern Simplon region; southern Goms:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in western to northern to eastern exposition. In the indicated regions of Lower Valais, the hazardous zones are found above approximately 2400 m; in the indicated regions of Upper Valais, they are found above approximately 2200 m.

In isolated cases, avalanches attaining medium size can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. On north facing slopes, such avalanches can fracture down more deeply inside the old snowpack. The avalanche prone locations are most widespread in outlying touring terrain which is not as heavily frequented. Alarm signals such as whumpfung sounds are indicators of the imminent danger. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is essential.

Northern flank of the Alps; northern Valais; remaining southern Valais; Ticino; Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in western to northern to eastern exposition. On the northern flank of the Alps, the hazardous zones are found above approximately 2000 m; in the indicated regions of the Valais, Ticino and Grisons, the perilous zones are found above approximately 2200 m. Avalanches can be triggered primarily by large additional loading, but in some places, particularly in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, can even be unleashed by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Avalanches are capable of attaining a dangerous size. In relatively unfrequented terrain, the avalanche prone locations are more widespread than in heavily frequented terrain. A defensive route selection is sensible.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet snow avalanches will escalate slightly over the course of the day.

Particularly on steep, east, south and west facing slopes below about 2400 m, naturally triggered wet snowslides and wet snow avalanches are possible. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain should be brought to an end early in the day.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday and Monday, it is expected to be predominantly overcast. Above approximately 1500 to 1800 m, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. The danger of wet snow avalanches will subside. The danger of dry avalanches may increase somewhat from region to region on Monday.

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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch

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Avalanche danger forecast

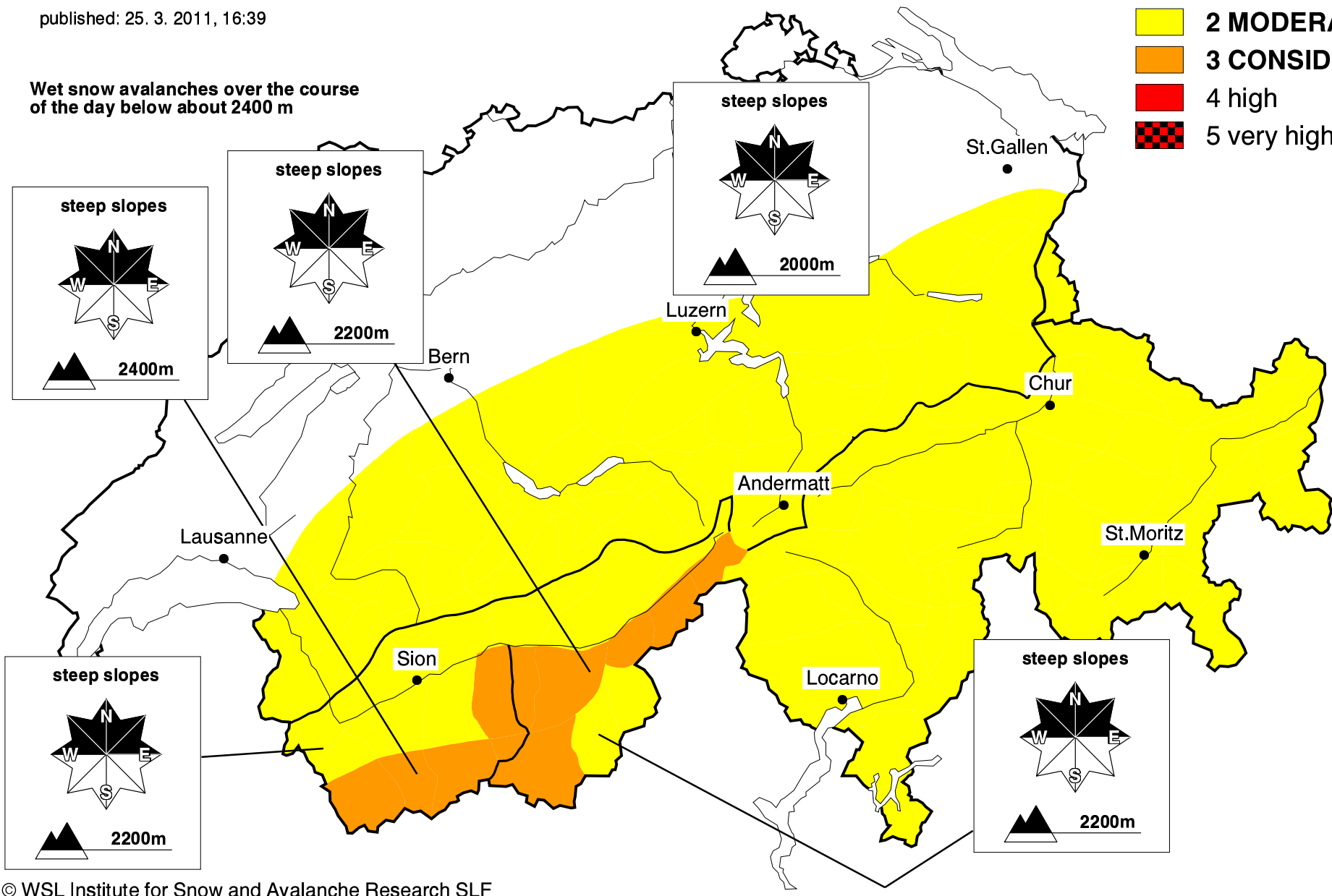
for Saturday, 26. March 2011

published: 25. 3. 2011, 16:39

Wet snow avalanches over the course of the day below about 2400 m

Danger level

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








Avalanche danger forecast

for Saturday, 26. March 2011

published: 26. 3. 2011, 08:07

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Danger level

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

