

National avalanche bulletin no. 144

for Friday, 1 April 2011

issue date 31.3.2011, 18:30 hours

Danger of wet avalanches will rise swiftly to Level 3, "considerable"

Current conditions

On Thursday morning it was sunny. At midday, clouds moved in from the west and on the northern flank of the Alps above approximately 2000 m, there was a few centimeters of snowfall. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 3 degrees. The westerly wind was blowing at light to moderate strength.

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 sectors of the Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons.

Short-term development

On Thursday night in eastern regions above 2000 m, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. Thereafter, even there the skies will clear up from the southwest. On Friday it will be predominantly sunny. The temperature will increase; by midday it will be plus 6 degrees at 2000 m. The freezing level will ascend to 3000 m. During the night the northwesterly wind will be blowing at strong velocity in high alpine regions, elsewhere at light to moderate strength.

In northeastern regions, where the skies will only clear up in the latter part of the night, the snowpack surface will freeze but superficially. The snow surface will then rapidly soften up over the course of the day in all regions of the Swiss Alps, due to the warmth and the solar radiation.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps, not including the Alpstein-Alvier region and not including Liechtenstein; in addition, Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons not including northern Prättigau:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of northwestern to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2200 m. In isolated cases, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and attain dangerous size. In southern Valais, in the inneralpine regions of Grisons as well as in all seldom frequented backcountry skiing terrain in general, the avalanche prone locations occur more frequently. Whumpfung sounds or skiers breaking through the weakly consolidated old snowpack can be indicators of imminent danger. Through the daytime warming cycle, the likelihood of dry avalanches being triggered will escalate over the course of the day, even at high altitudes.

In high alpine regions in areas adjacent to ridge lines, there are freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. They should be avoided.

Prealps; Alpstein-Alvier region; Liechtenstein; northern Prättigau; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

Low danger of dry avalanches (Level 1)

In very isolated cases, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack. This applies particularly to seldom frequented, north facing slopes. Through the daytime warming cycle, the likelihood of dry avalanches being triggered is expected to escalate.

Danger of wet avalanches:

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet snow avalanches will swiftly increase to Level 3, "considerable", over the course of the day. Below about 2800 m on south facing slopes, and below about 2400 m on north facing slopes, wet avalanches can be naturally triggered. Yet moist or wet avalanches can also be triggered by skiers and freeriders, especially in regions with weak snow layering. This is particularly the case in southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain as well as ascents to huts should be launched very early in the morning and brought to an end early in the day.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On both days, sunny weather conditions are expected. On Saturday, the freezing level will ascend to 3500 m. Above the treeline during clear nights, the snowpack will freeze and form a crust capable of bearing loads, bringing about favourable backcountry touring conditions widespread during the morning hours. Then, during the day, the danger of wet avalanches will escalate rapidly and significantly.

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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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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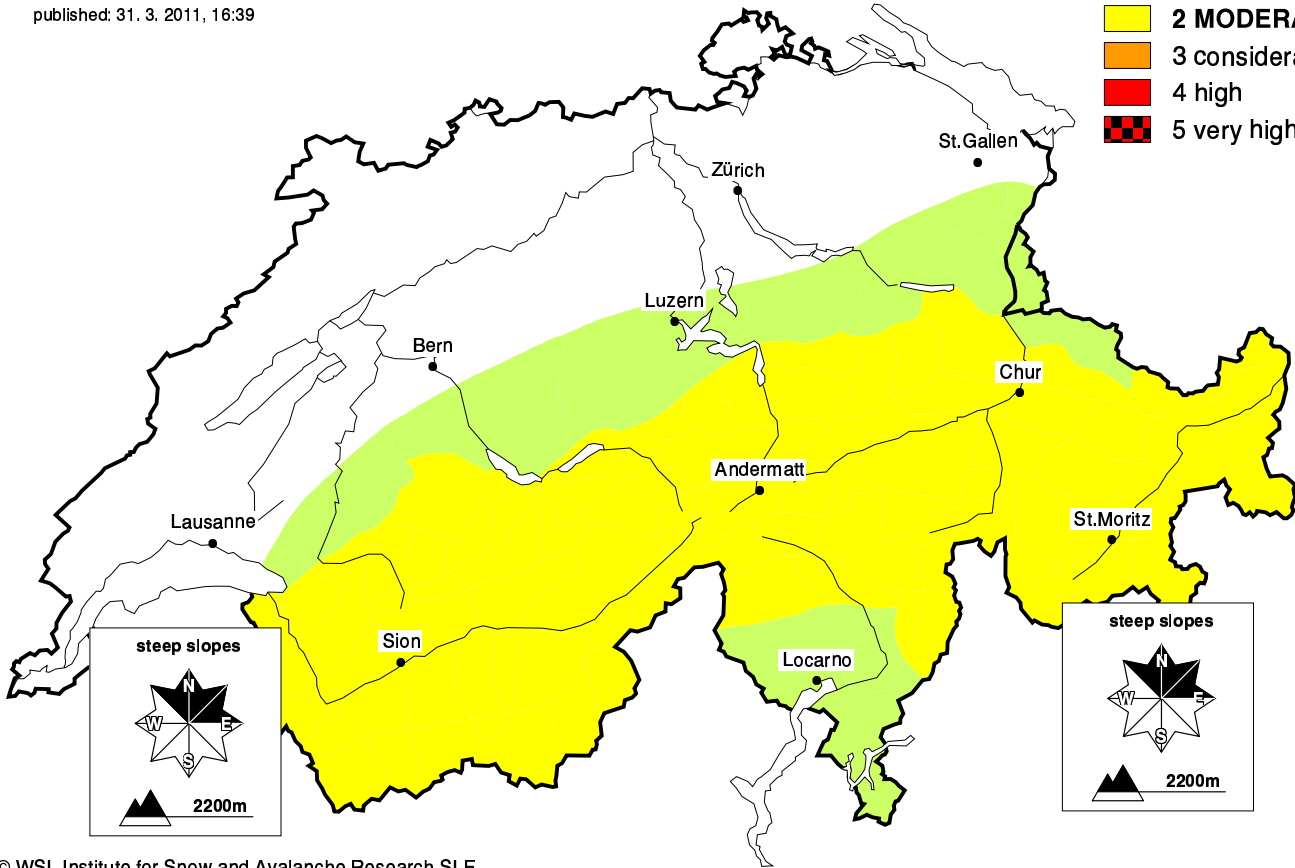
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 1. April 2011

published: 31. 3. 2011, 16:39

Danger level

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








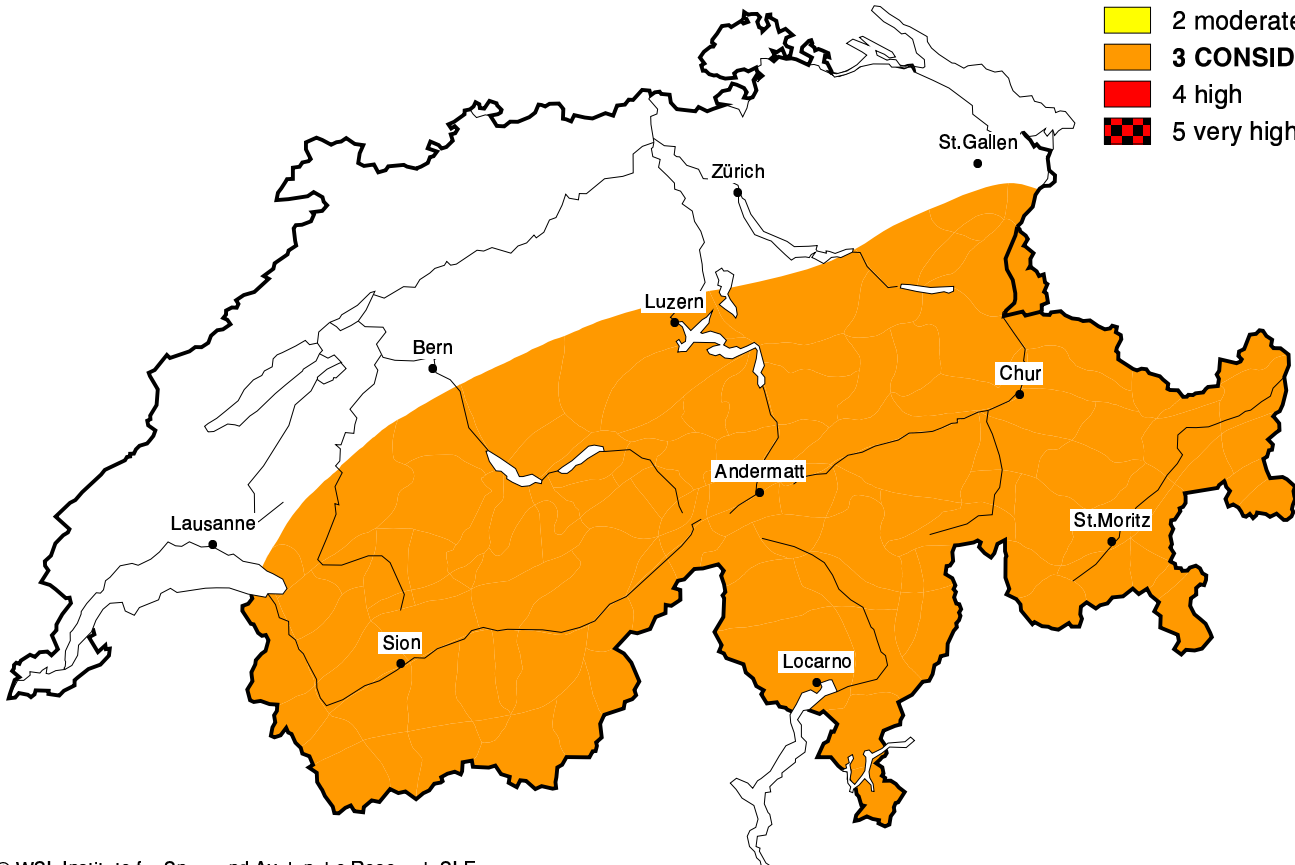
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Friday, 1. April 2011

Danger level

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



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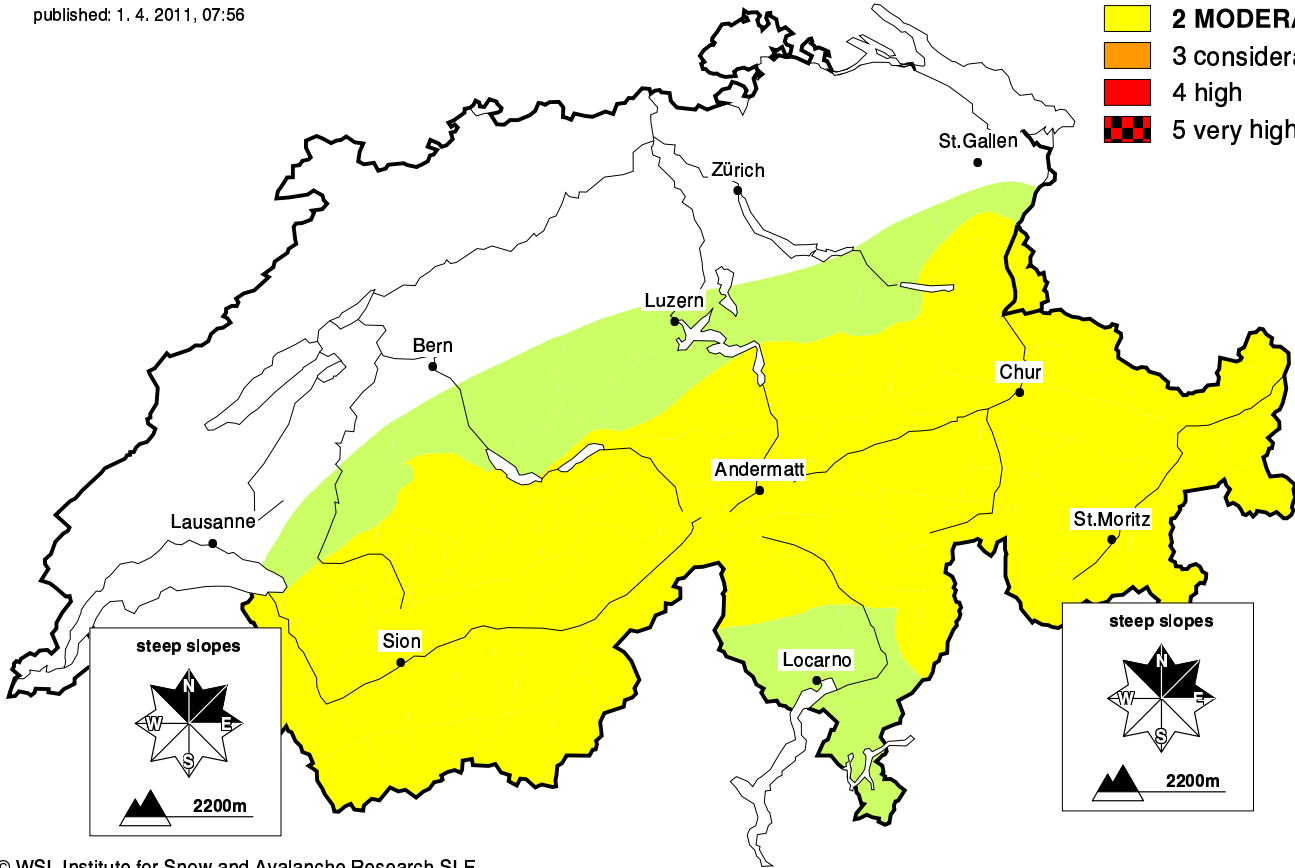
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 1. April 2011

published: 1. 4. 2011, 07:56

Danger level

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



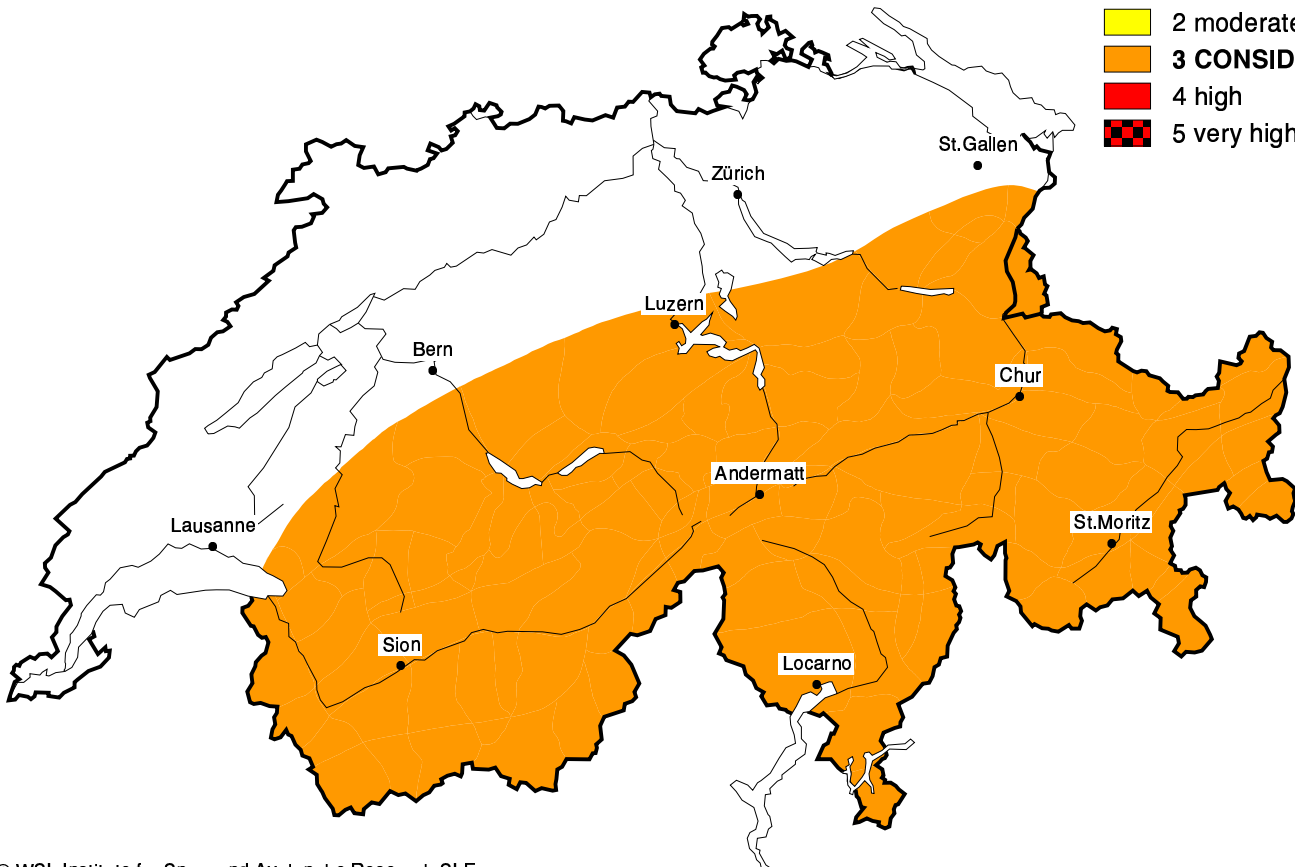
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