

National avalanche bulletin no. 145

for Saturday, 2 April 2011

issue date 1.4.2011, 18:30 hours

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

Current conditions

On Thursday night the skies were overcast everywhere in the Swiss Alps except in parts of the Valais. Above approximately 2200 m in northern regions, there was a few centimeters of snowfall. On Friday, it was sunny. The temperature continued to rise and by midday had reached plus 7 degrees widespread at 2000 m, in northeastern regions it was plus 4 degrees. The westerly wind was blowing at moderate velocity during the night, during the day the winds were light.

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 Saturday, it will be sunny and very mild. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 8 degrees in northern regions and plus 5 degrees in southern regions. The freezing level will ascend to 3300 m. The wind will be blowing lightly.

During the night, when the skies are expected to be clear, the snowpack surface above the treeline on east, south and west facing slopes will freeze widespread to form a crust capable of bearing loads. In those zones, backcountry touring conditions will be quite favourable in the early morning hours. The snowpack will then rapidly soften up over the course of the morning, due to solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons:

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 on north facing slopes at high altitudes.

In high alpine regions in areas adjacent to ridge lines, there are freshly formed snowdrift accumulations which are prone to triggering in places.

Prealps; 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 3000 m on south facing slopes, and below about 2500 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 a hut, should be launched very early in the morning and brought to an end early in the day.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will once again be sunny and very mild. In the early morning hours, following a night of clear skies, favourable backcountry touring conditions will prevail for the most part. Over the course of the day, the hazards of wet avalanches will increase significantly. On Monday, it is expected to be heavily overcast and precipitation is anticipated in northern regions in particular. The snowfall level will descend down to 1500 m. The danger of wet avalanches will subside only incrementally.

The danger of dry avalanches is expected to escalate in northern regions.

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:

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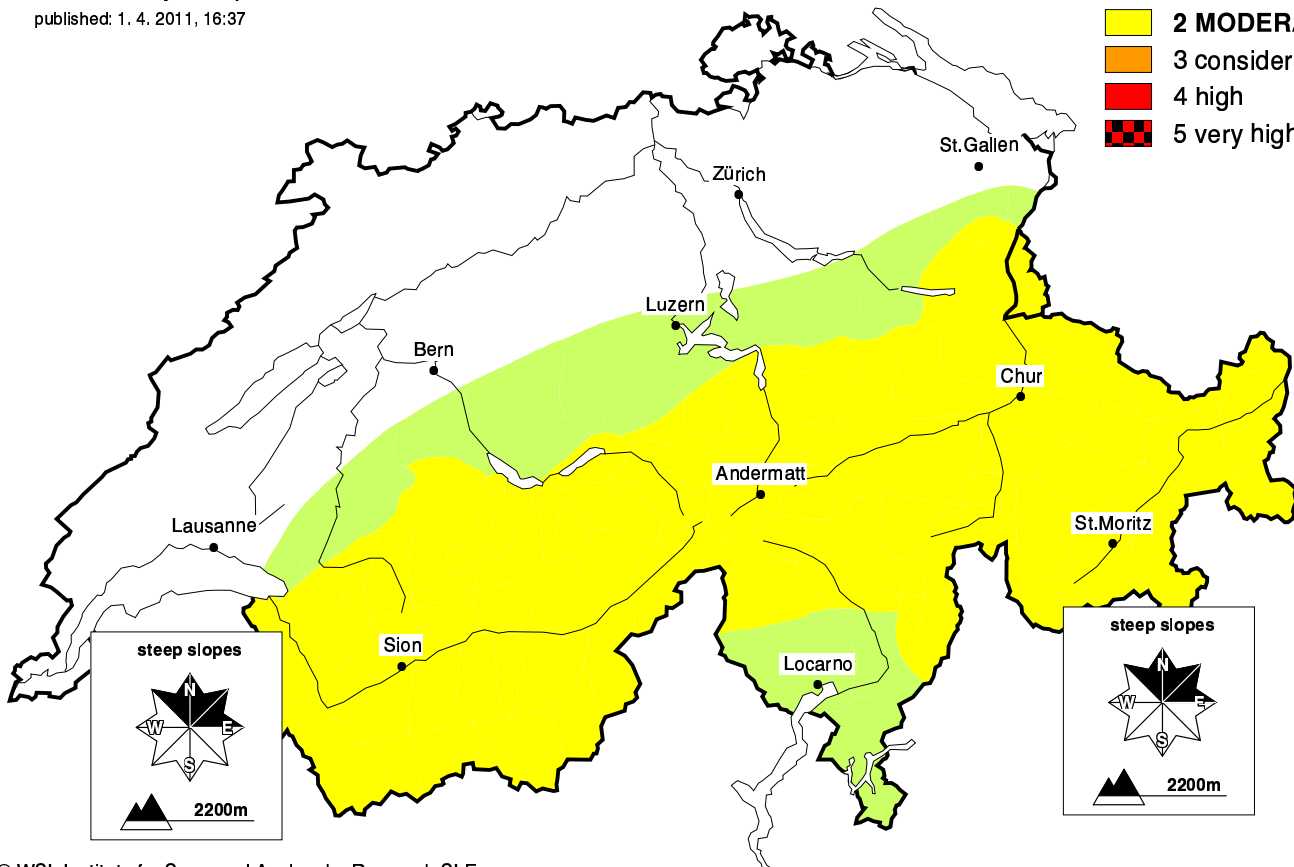
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 2. April 2011

published: 1. 4. 2011, 16:37

Danger level

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



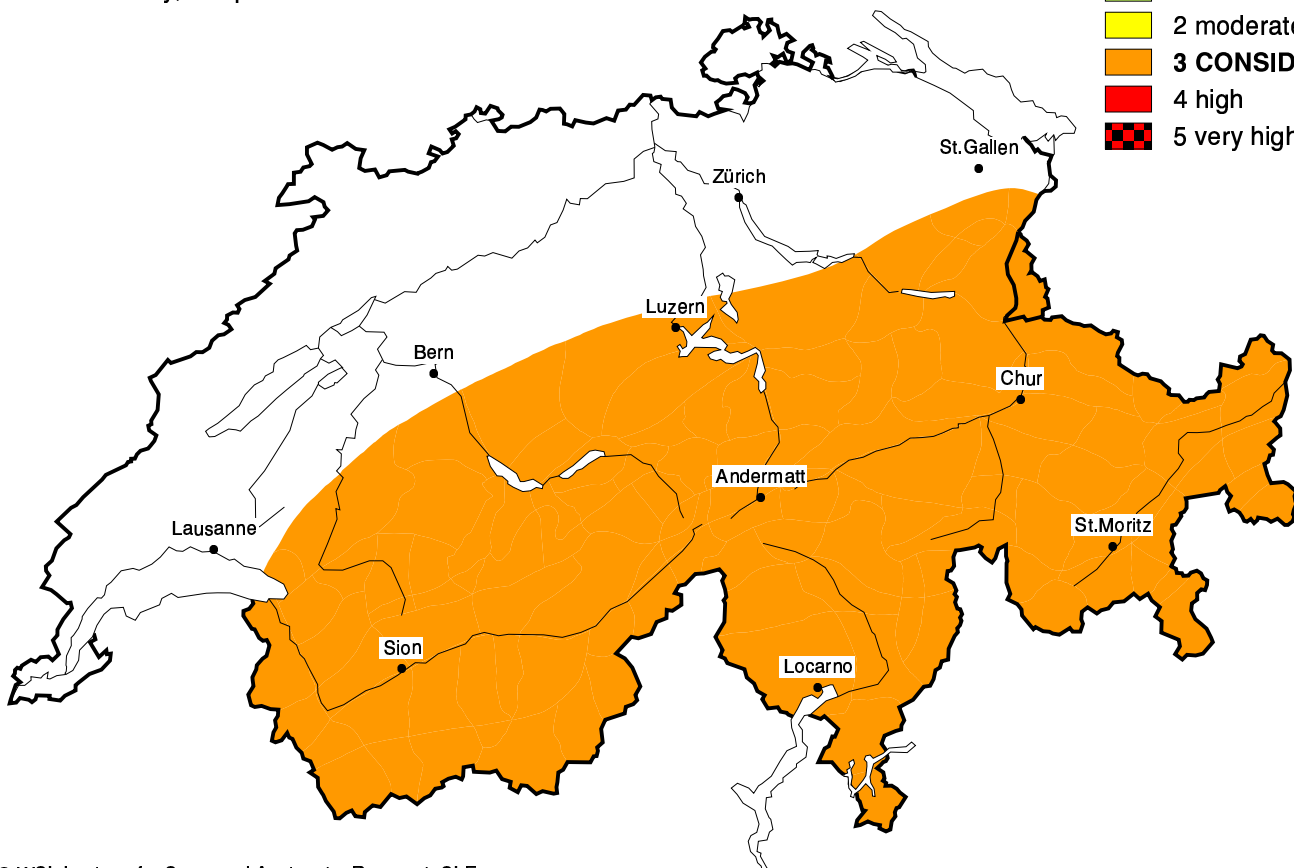
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Saturday, 2. April 2011

Danger level

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



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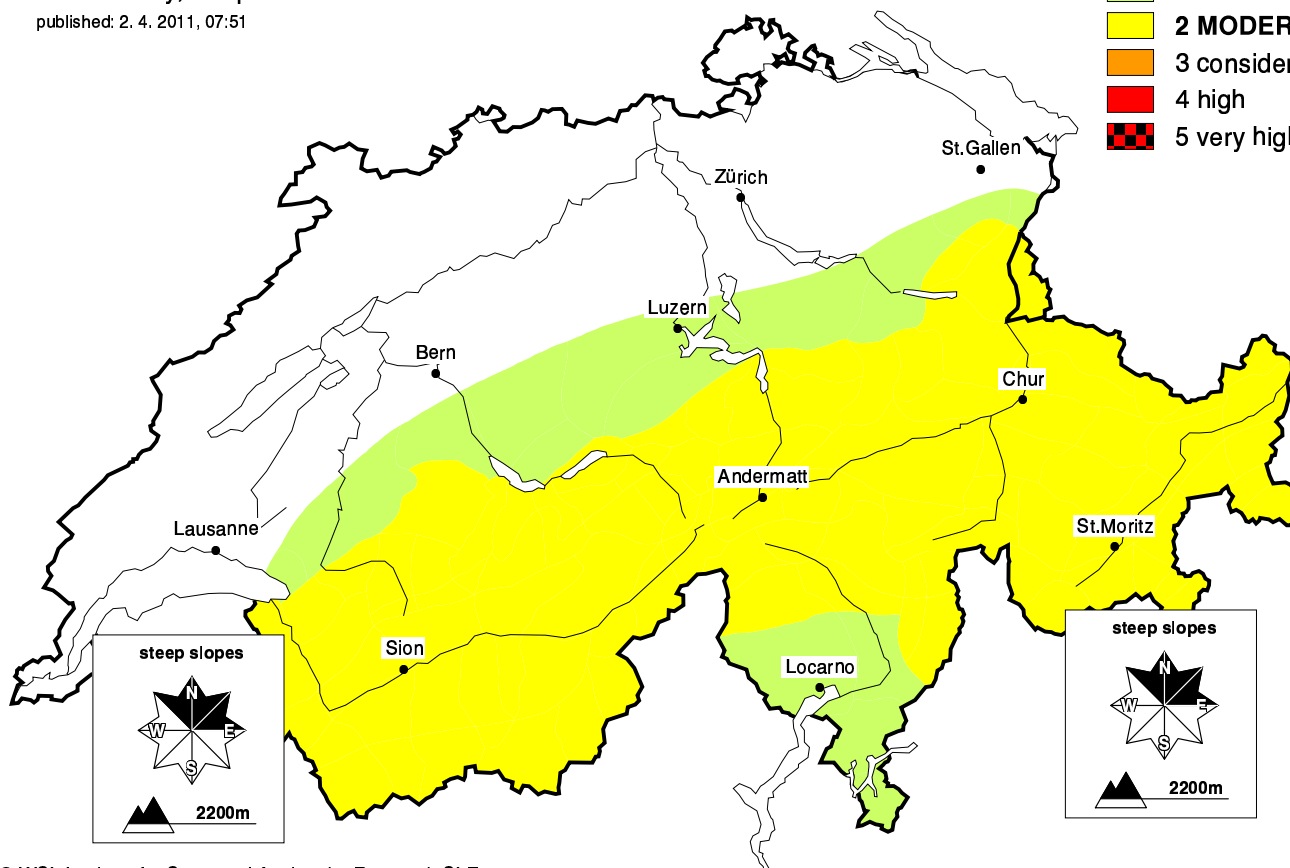
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 2. April 2011

published: 2. 4. 2011, 07:51

Danger level

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



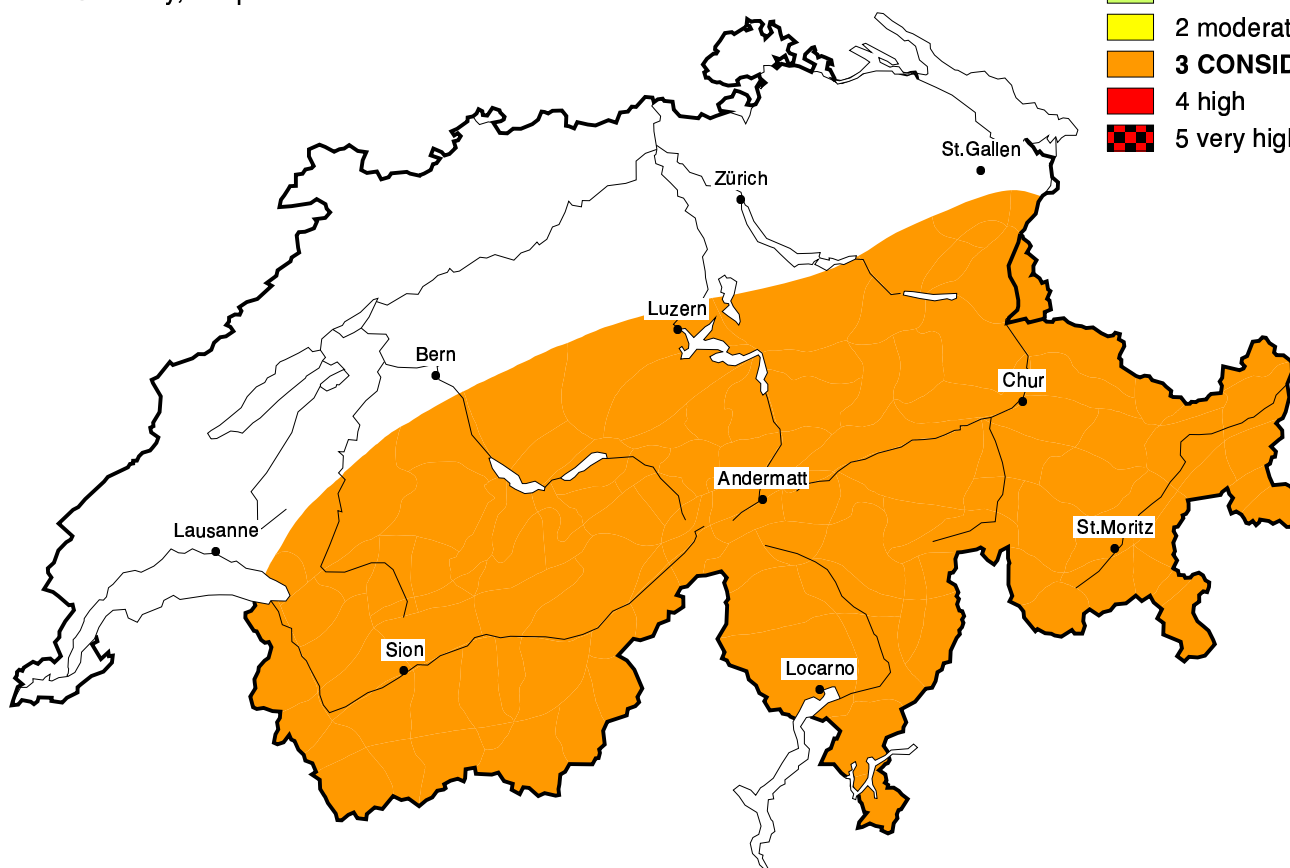
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