

## National avalanche bulletin no. 146

for Sunday, 3 April 2011

issue date 2.4.2011, 18:30 hours

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

### Current conditions

On Saturday, following a night of predominantly clear skies, it was sunny and extraordinarily warm. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 8 degrees. The southwesterly 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 Sunday, it will be sunny to begin with. During the afternoon, clouds will move in from the west. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 8 degrees in northern regions and plus 6 degrees in southern regions. The westerly wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity in high alpine regions, elsewhere at light to moderate strength.

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.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Southern Lower Valais; Turtmanntal; lower valleys of Visp; upper Mättertal:

*Considerable danger of dry avalanches (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes of northwestern to northern to northeastern exposition above approximately 2500 m. In isolated cases, avalanches can be triggered in the old snowpack and attain dangerous size. This applies particularly to seldom frequented backcountry touring terrain. In high alpine regions, in addition, caution is urged towards snowdrift accumulations.

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; northern Valais; upper Saastal; Simplon region; Goms; 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. In the inneralpine regions of Grisons as well as in 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, even on north facing slopes at high altitudes. In high alpine regions, in addition, caution is urged towards snowdrift accumulations.

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 over the course of the day.

**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, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches can be expected. At high altitudes in particular, exposed sections of transportation routes can be placed at risk in isolated cases. Particularly in southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons, moist or wet avalanches can also be triggered by skiers and freeriders. 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 Monday and Tuesday

On Monday it will be heavily overcast and some precipitation is anticipated in northern regions in particular. The snowfall level will drop from 2500 m down to 1500 m. In high altitude zones of the northern regions more than anywhere else, the danger of dry avalanches will escalate. The danger of wet avalanches will remain unchanged. On Tuesday, it is expected to be quite sunny. The danger of dry avalanches will recede. The danger of wet avalanches will again be increasingly subject to a daytime warming cycle.

**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

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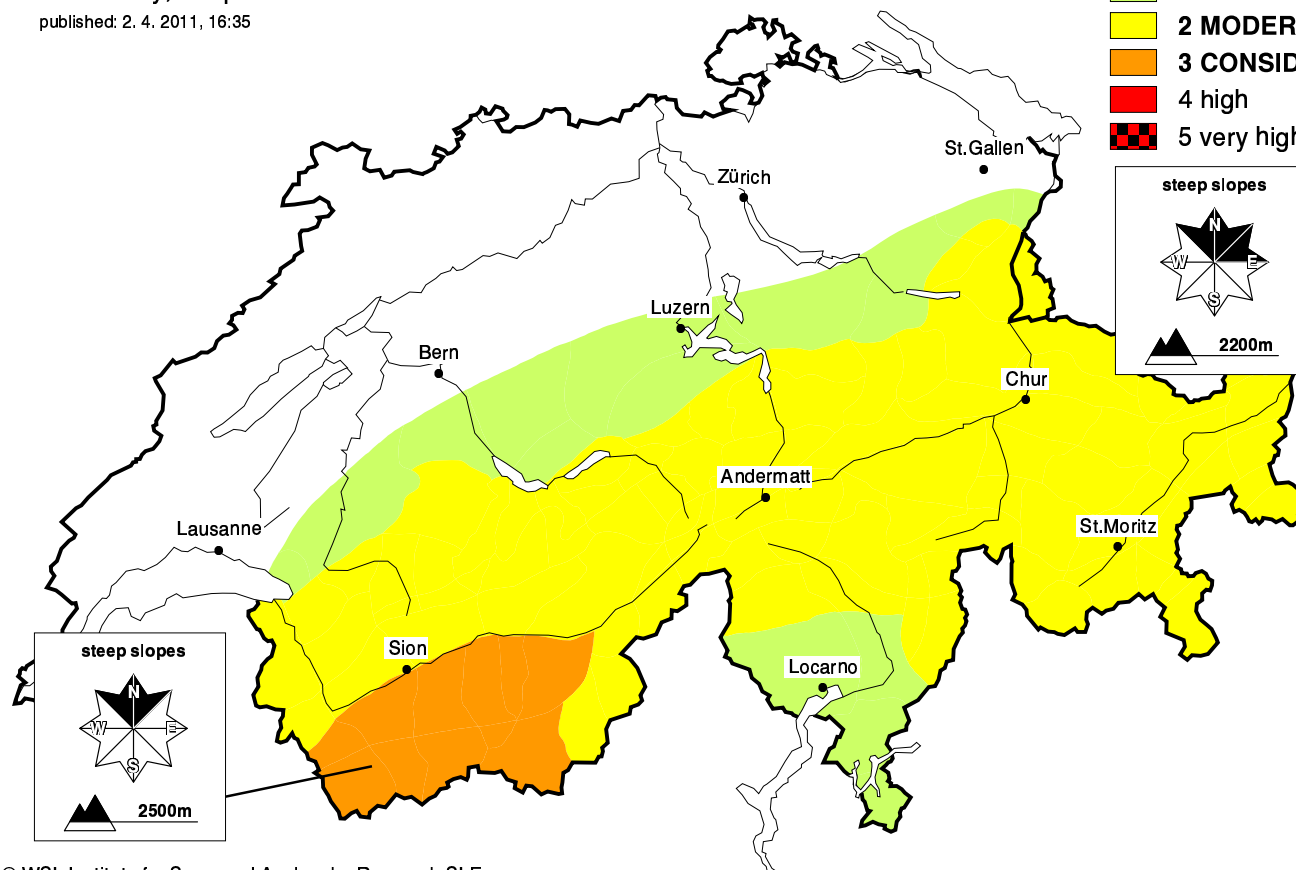
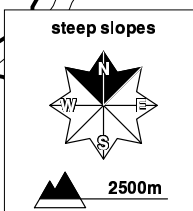
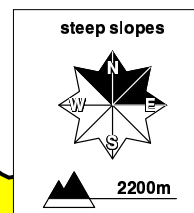
## Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Sunday, 3. April 2011

published: 2. 4. 2011, 16:35

Danger level

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



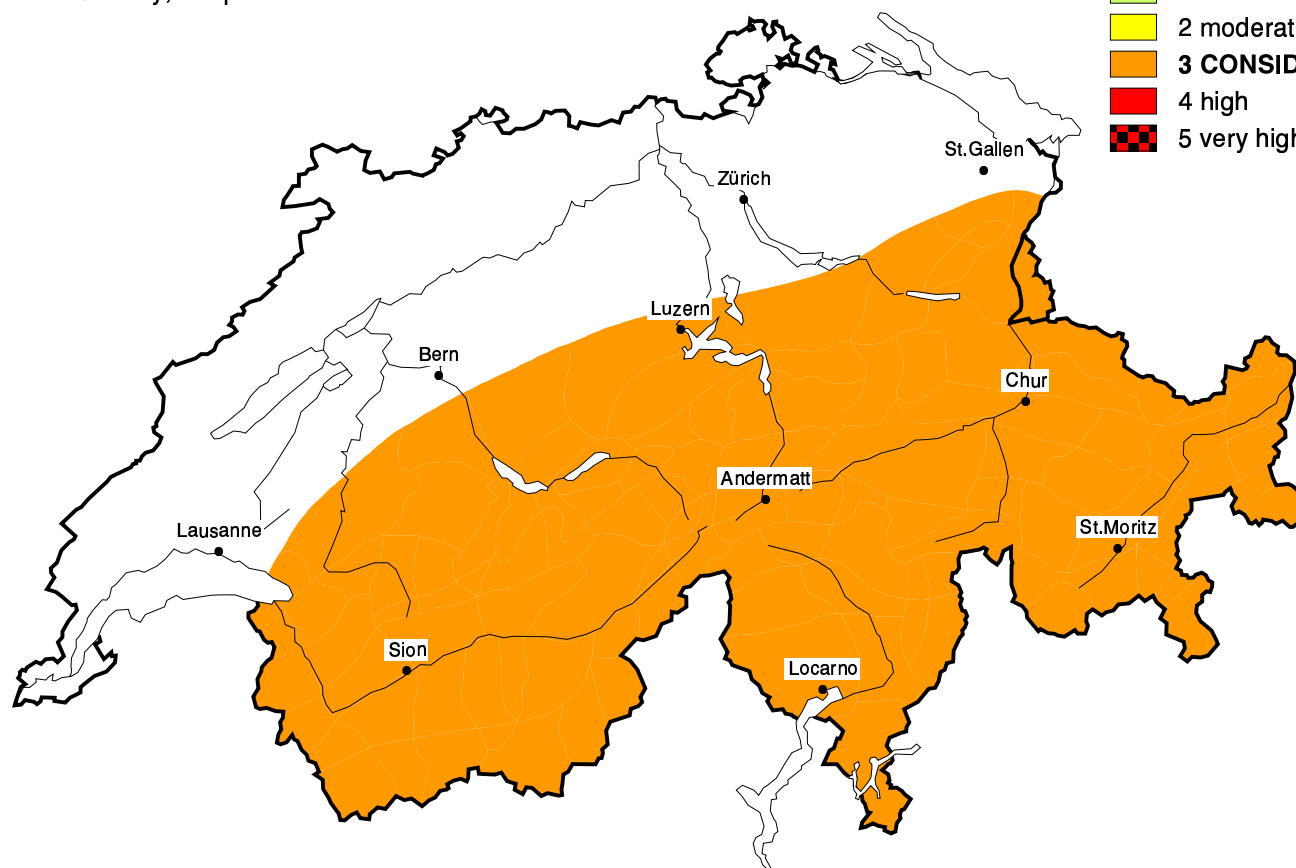
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## Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Sunday, 3. April 2011

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



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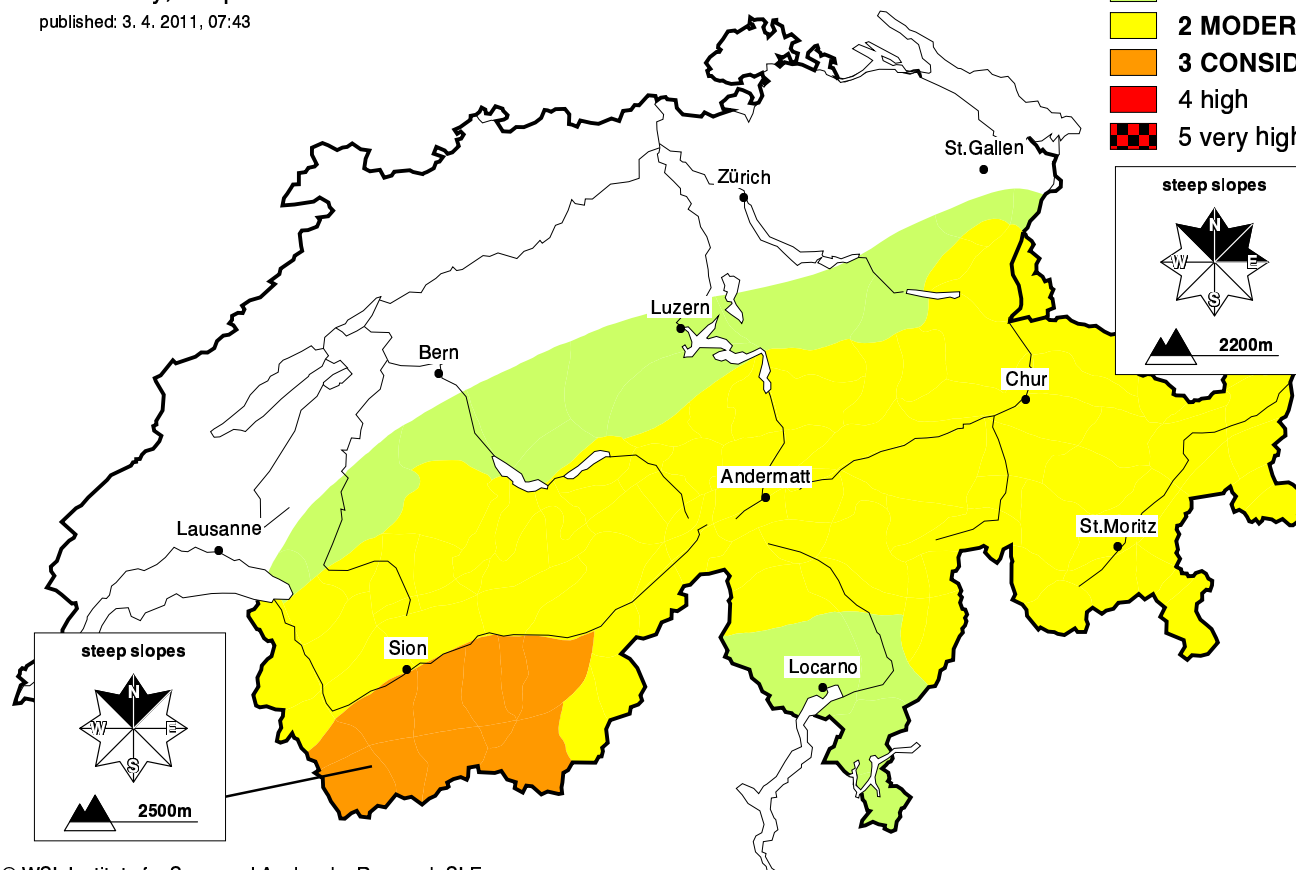
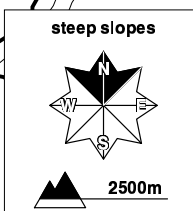
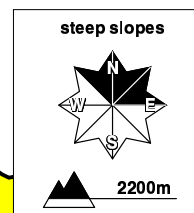
## Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Sunday, 3. April 2011

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Danger level

- 1 LOW
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- 3 CONSIDERABLE
- 4 high
- 5 very high



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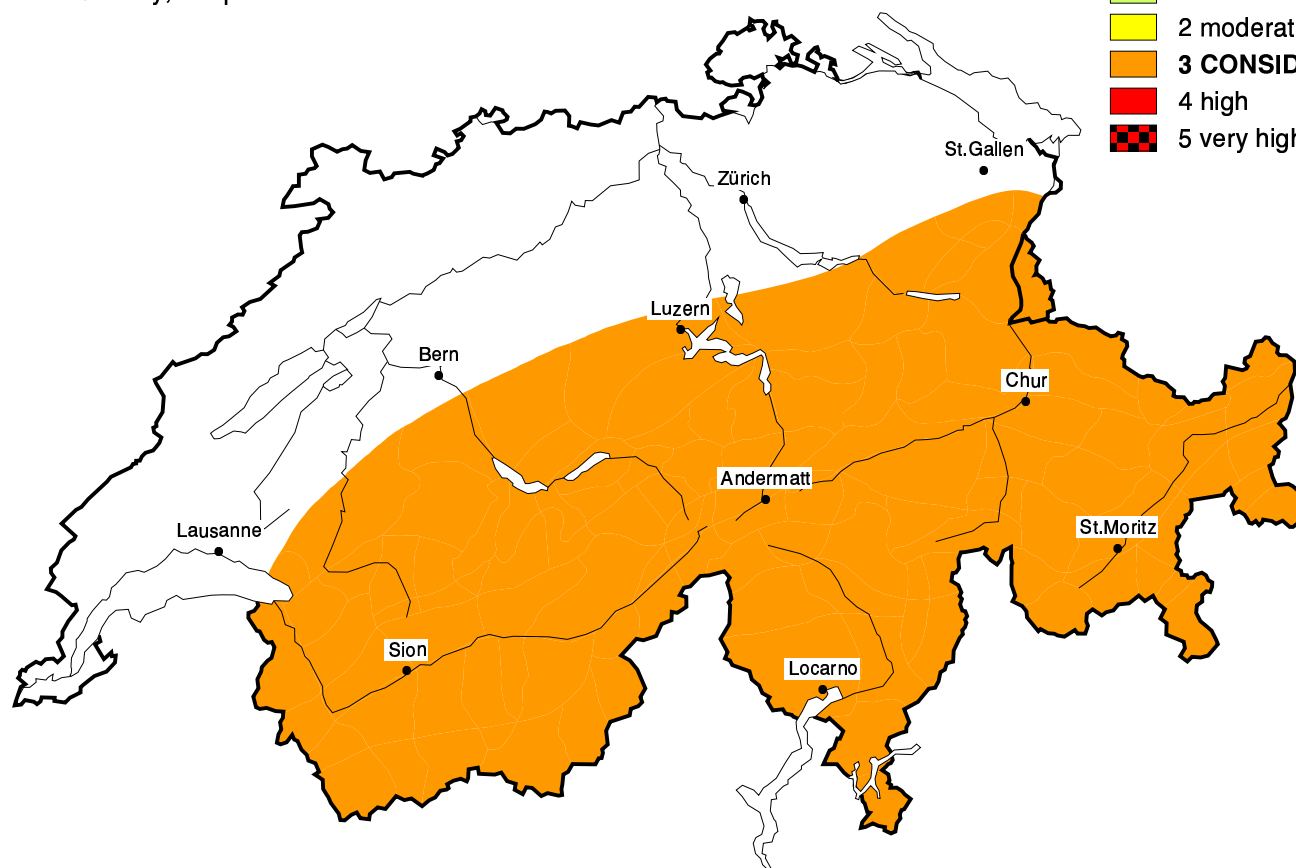


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