

National avalanche bulletin no. 149

for Wednesday, 6 April 2011

issue date 5.4.2011, 18:30 hours

North facing slopes and wet avalanches require caution

Current conditions

Monday night was overcast at times in the south and east, but clear elsewhere. During Tuesday the weather was sunny. Midday temperatures at 2000 m were about plus 5 degrees in the west and south, and 0 degrees in the east. The northerly wind was moderate at high altitude, but strong at times on the main Alpine ridge.

The snowpack is moist all the way through below approximately 3000 m on south facing slopes and 2200 m on north facing slopes. On north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m in particular, well bonded layers of snow are lying on a soft, faceted old snowpack. They are prone to triggering in some places in southern Valais and the inneralpine regions of Grisons in particular.

Short-term development

Tuesday night will be partly cloudy. During Wednesday, the weather will be mostly sunny and warm. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about plus 8 degrees in the west and south and about plus 4 degrees in the east. In the afternoon, the freezing level will rise to approximately 3500 m in all regions. The wind will be light to moderate from the northeast.

Above the tree line, a thin crust is forming on the snow surface on east, south and west facing slopes. On south facing slopes in particular, these crusts are strong in some cases. As the crust melts, the snowpack, which is moist all the way through, will quickly lose strength.

Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Southern Lower Valais; Turtmanntal; lower Visp valleys; Upper Mattertal:

Considerable danger of dry avalanches (level 3)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on northwest to north to northeast facing steep slopes above approximately 2500 m. In some cases, avalanches can be triggered in deeper layers of the snowpack and reach dangerous size. Backcountry touring calls for careful route selection.

Northern flank of the Alps excluding the Prealps; northern Valais; Upper Saastal; Simplon region; Goms; northern Ticino; Grisons:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on northwest to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 2400 m. In isolated cases, avalanches can be released in deeper layers of the snowpack. This applies in particular in the inneralpine regions of Grisons. The danger can be indicated by whumpfing sounds and skiers breaking through the weakly bonded old snowpack. In the high Alpine regions on both the northern flank of the Alps and the main Alpine ridge, more recent snow drift accumulations in all aspects are also to be treated with caution. Careful route selection is recommended.

Prealps; central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri:

Low danger of dry avalanches (level 1)

Locations prone to isolated dry avalanches are to be found, in particular, on extremely steep north facing slopes.

Danger of wet avalanches:

The danger of wet avalanches will increase quickly in the morning and reach considerable (level 3) on the northern flank of the Alps excluding the Prealps, in Valais, and in Grisons excluding both Val Calanca and Val Moesa. Natural wet avalanches are to be expected on east, south and west facing slopes below approximately 2800 m to 3000 m, and on north facing slopes below approximately 2600 m. Exposed parts of transportation routes are endangered in isolated cases. On north facing slopes between 2000 m and 2600 m in particular, wet avalanches can also be triggered by people in view of the poor bonding of the snowpack. In the Prealps and the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, a moderate danger (level 2) of wet avalanches exists. Isolated wet avalanches can occur during the day.

Trend for Thursday and Friday

On each of the next two days the weather will be mostly sunny and warm. After clear nights, the avalanche situation will be favourable in most regions in the early mornings. The danger of wet avalanches will increase quickly during each of the next two days.

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)

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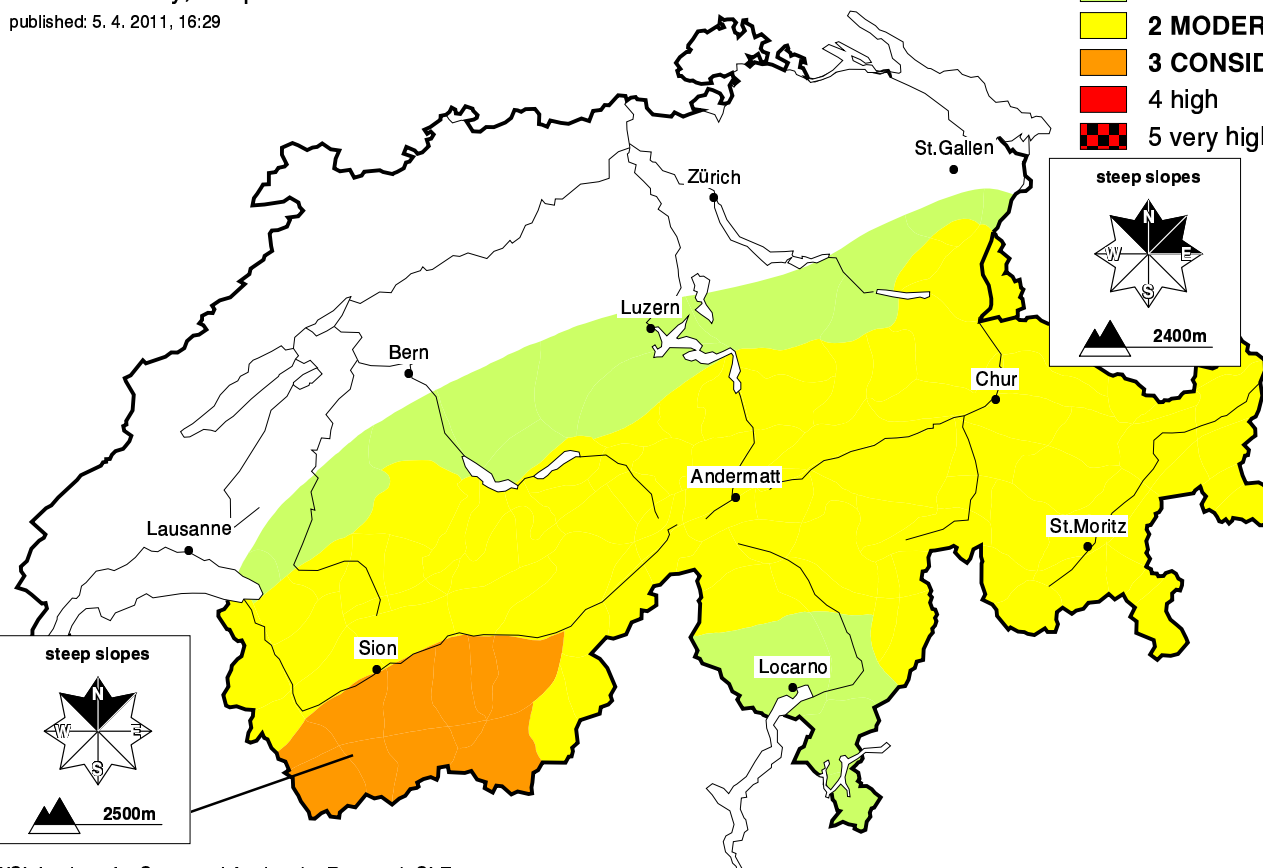
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Wednesday, 6. April 2011

published: 5. 4. 2011, 16:29

Danger level

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



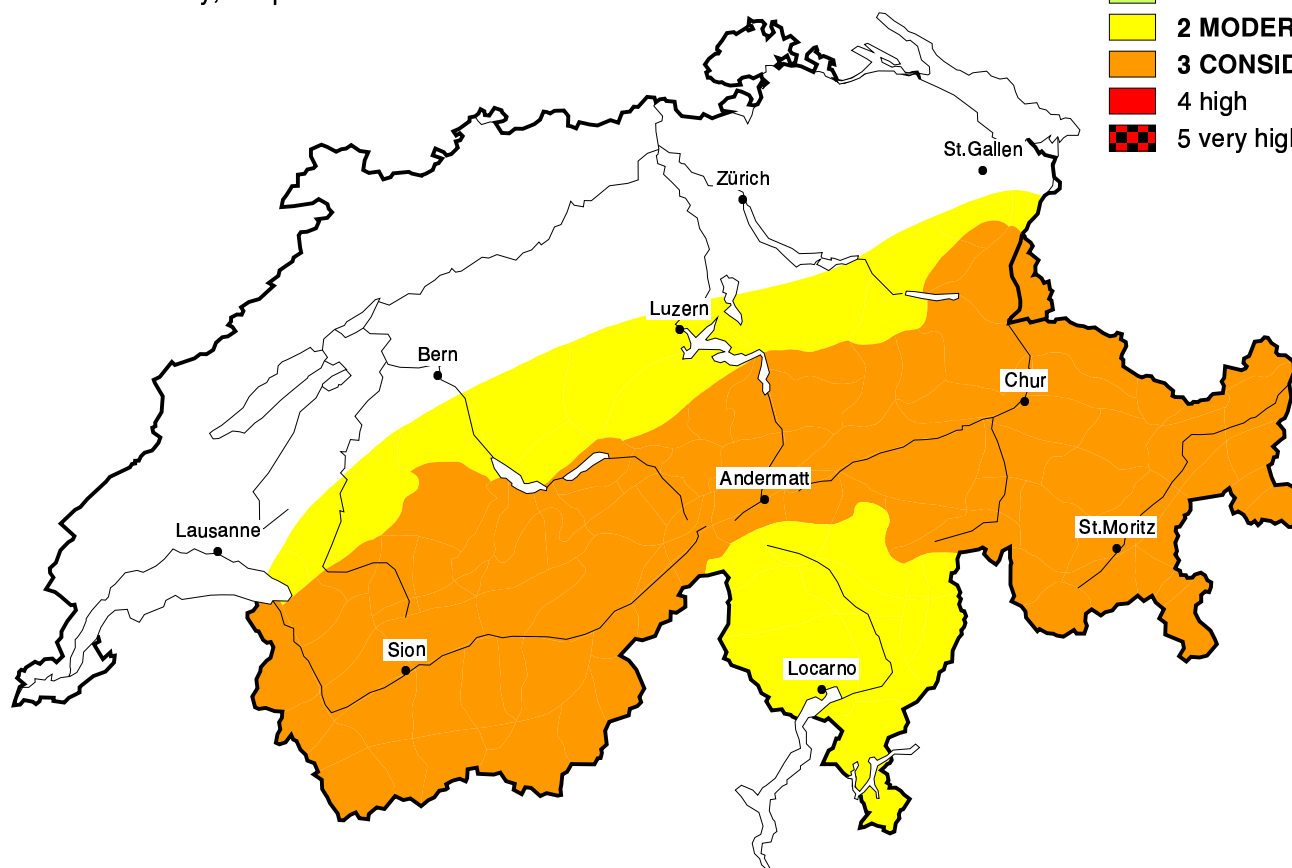
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Wednesday, 6. April 2011

Danger level

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



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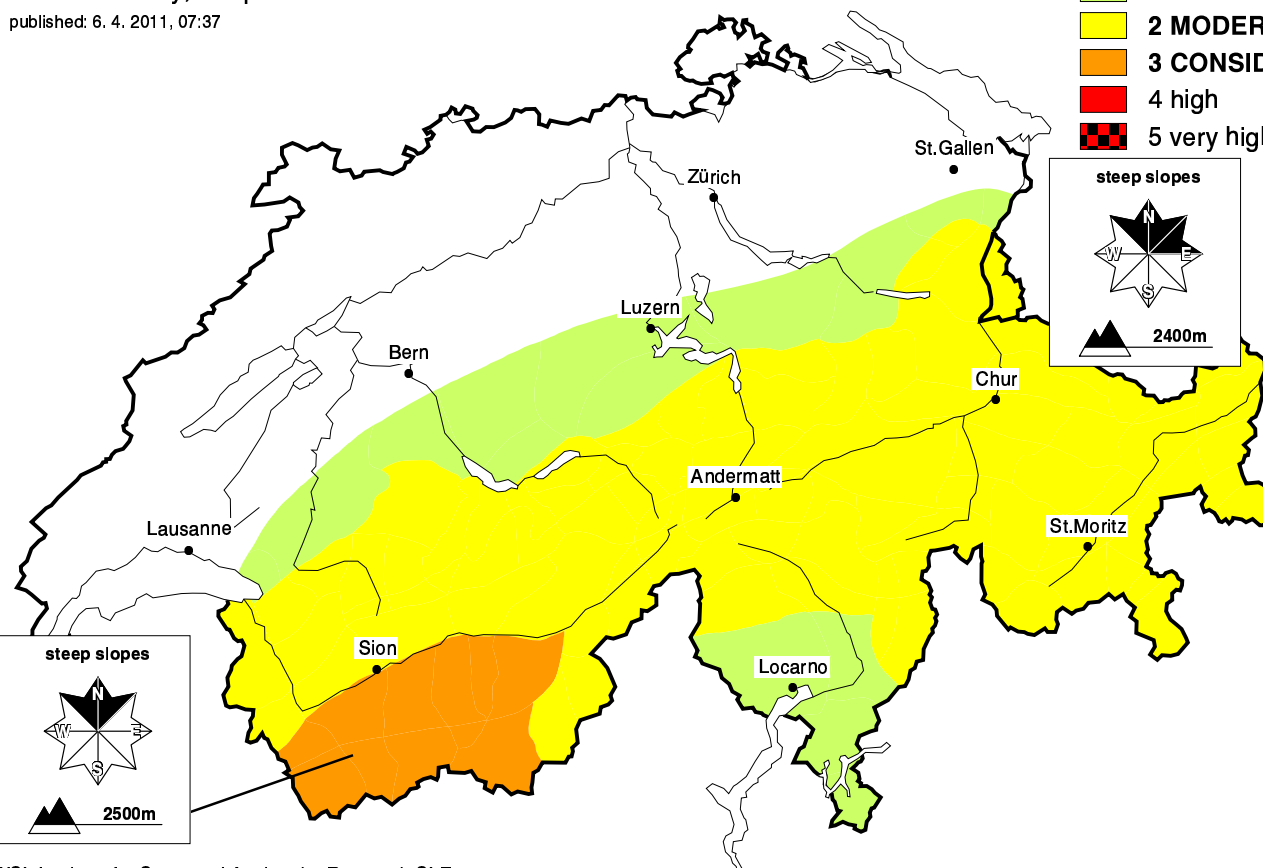
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Wednesday, 6. April 2011

published: 6. 4. 2011, 07:37

Danger level

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



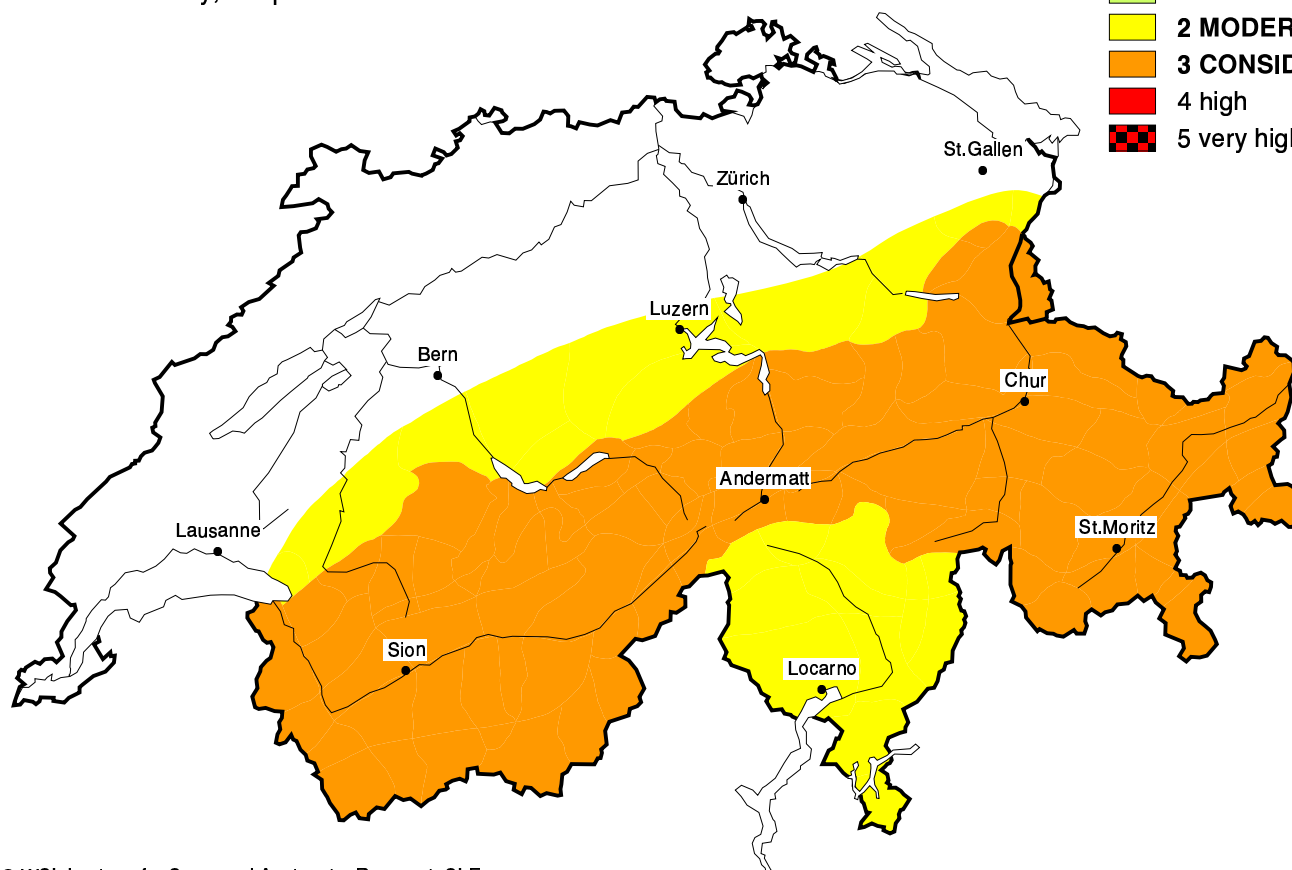
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