

# National avalanche bulletin no. 151

for Friday, 8 April 2011

issue date 7.4.2011, 18:30 hours

*Swiftly escalating wet avalanche danger during the day, including on north facing slopes*

## Current conditions

On Thursday it was sunny and extraordinarily warm for the season. At midday the temperatures at 2000 m were plus 12 degrees in western and southern regions and plus 10 degrees in eastern regions. The wind was blowing at light to moderate strength from westerly to northerly directions.

The snow lines on north facing slopes are between 1400 and 1600 m altitude, in some parts of western regions at 1800 m. On south facing slopes, they are approximately 500 m higher. In Sotto Ceneri, there is barely any snow on the ground. The snowpack on south facing slopes is thoroughly wet below about 3200 m, in the remaining expositions it is wet below 2200 to 2600 m. Particularly in southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons on north facing slopes between 2200 and 2800 m, the snowpack is weak and thoroughly wet to an increasing degree, making it prone to triggering.

## Short-term development

On Thursday night in the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in northern Grisons, it will be intermittently overcast, elsewhere the skies will be clear. In eastern regions, the low altitude cloud cover will disperse during the morning hours. Elsewhere it will be sunny from the early morning. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 8 degrees in western and southern regions, plus 6 degrees in eastern regions. The northerly wind will be blowing at weak to moderate strength.

In the eastern regions more than anywhere else, the nocturnal outgoing radiation will be reduced, so that only a thin melt freeze crust will be able to form. At high altitudes, wet snow avalanches can be expected widespread, to an increasing extent even on north facing slopes.

## Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Southern Lower Valais; Turtmannal; lower valleys of Visp; upper Mattertal:

*Considerable danger of dry avalanches (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in northwestern to northern to northeastern exposition above approximately 2600 m. Avalanches can be triggered in more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack in some places and subsequently attain a dangerous size. For backcountry skiing and freeriding tours, a prudent route selection is imperative.

Northern part of the Alpine Ridge; northern Valais; upper Saastal; Simplon region; central part of Main Alpine Ridge; Grisons not including the regions lower Val Calanca and lower Val Moesa:

*Moderate danger of dry avalanches (Level 2)*

In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps or Urseren, in northern and central Grisons not including the Main Alpine Ridge, in the Lower Engadine and in the Münstertal, as well as in the Upper Engadine not including Corvatsch or the Bernina region, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in northwestern to northern to eastern exposition above approximately 2400 m. In the remaining regions of this danger level, the hazardous zones are to be found primarily on steep slopes in northwestern to northern to northeastern exposition above approximately 2600 m. In isolated cases, avalanches can be triggered in more deeply embedded layers inside the old snowpack. Whumpfung sounds and skiers breaking through the poorly consolidated old snowpack can be indicators of imminent danger. A cautious route selection is important.

Regions north of the northern part of the Alpine Ridge; central part of the southern flank of the Alps south of the Main Alpine Ridge:

*Low danger of dry avalanches (Level 1)*

Isolated avalanche prone locations for dry avalanches are to be found primarily on extremely steep, north facing slopes.

Danger of wet avalanches:

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet snow avalanches is expected to escalate swiftly during the morning. The danger level on the northern flank of the Alps not including the Prealps, in the Valais, in the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge and in Grisons, will increase to Level 3, "considerable". From not yet discharged south, east and west facing slopes below about 3200 m, and on north facing slopes below about 2600 m, naturally triggered wet snow avalanches can be expected. In isolated cases, exposed sections of transportation routes are endangered.

In the remaining regions, the danger level of wet snow avalanches is expected to increase to Level 2, "moderate". Over the course of the day, isolated wet snow avalanches are possible in those zones. Skiing and freeriding tours in outlying terrain should be brought to an end early in the day.

## Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On both days, following nights with clear skies, it is expected to be sunny and warm. The danger of dry avalanches on north facing slopes will subside. The danger of wet avalanches is expected to escalate swiftly in all expositions over the course of each day.

**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

LAWNCR 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](http://wap.slf.ch)

**Teletext:** Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

**Feedback information:**

Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

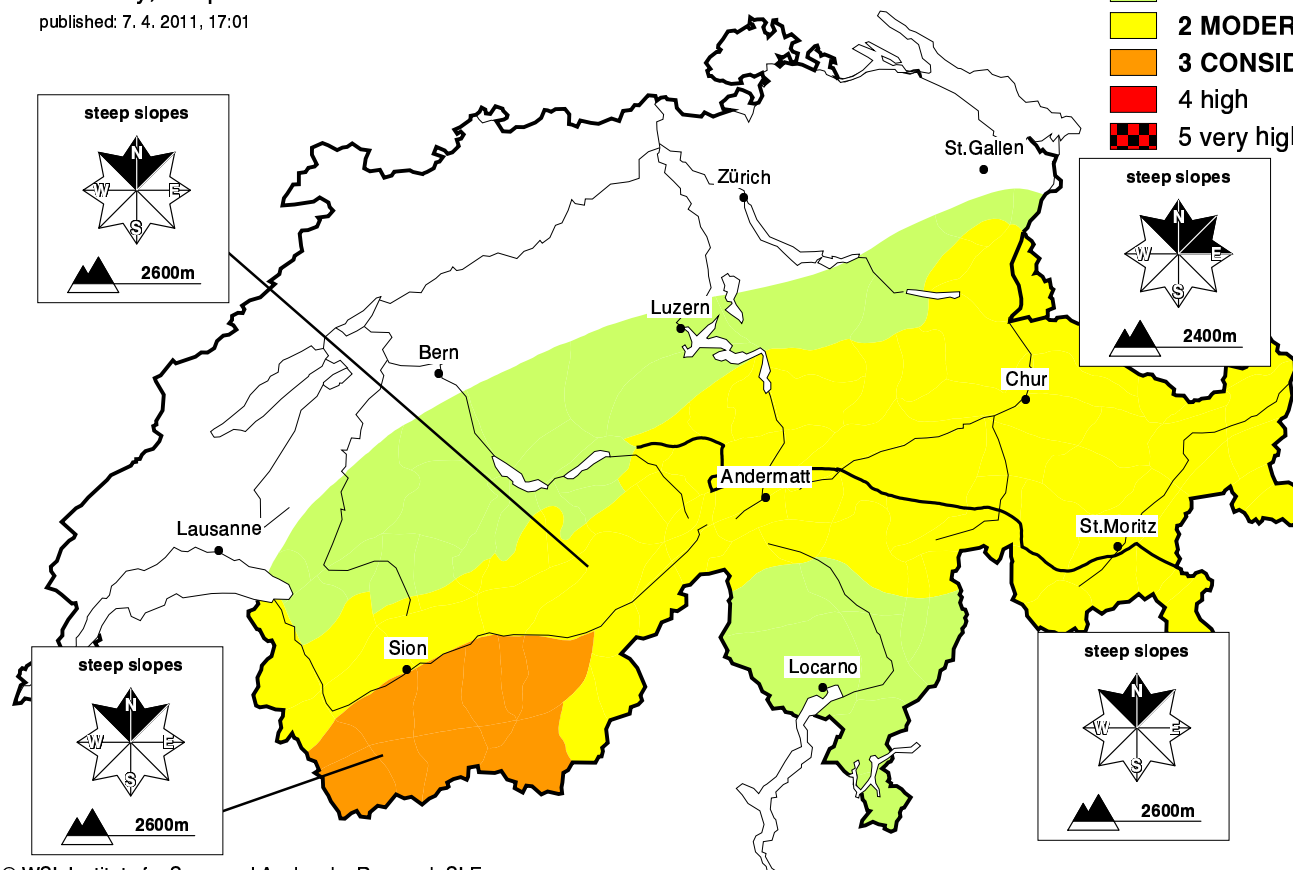
## Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 8. April 2011

published: 7. 4. 2011, 17:01

Danger level

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



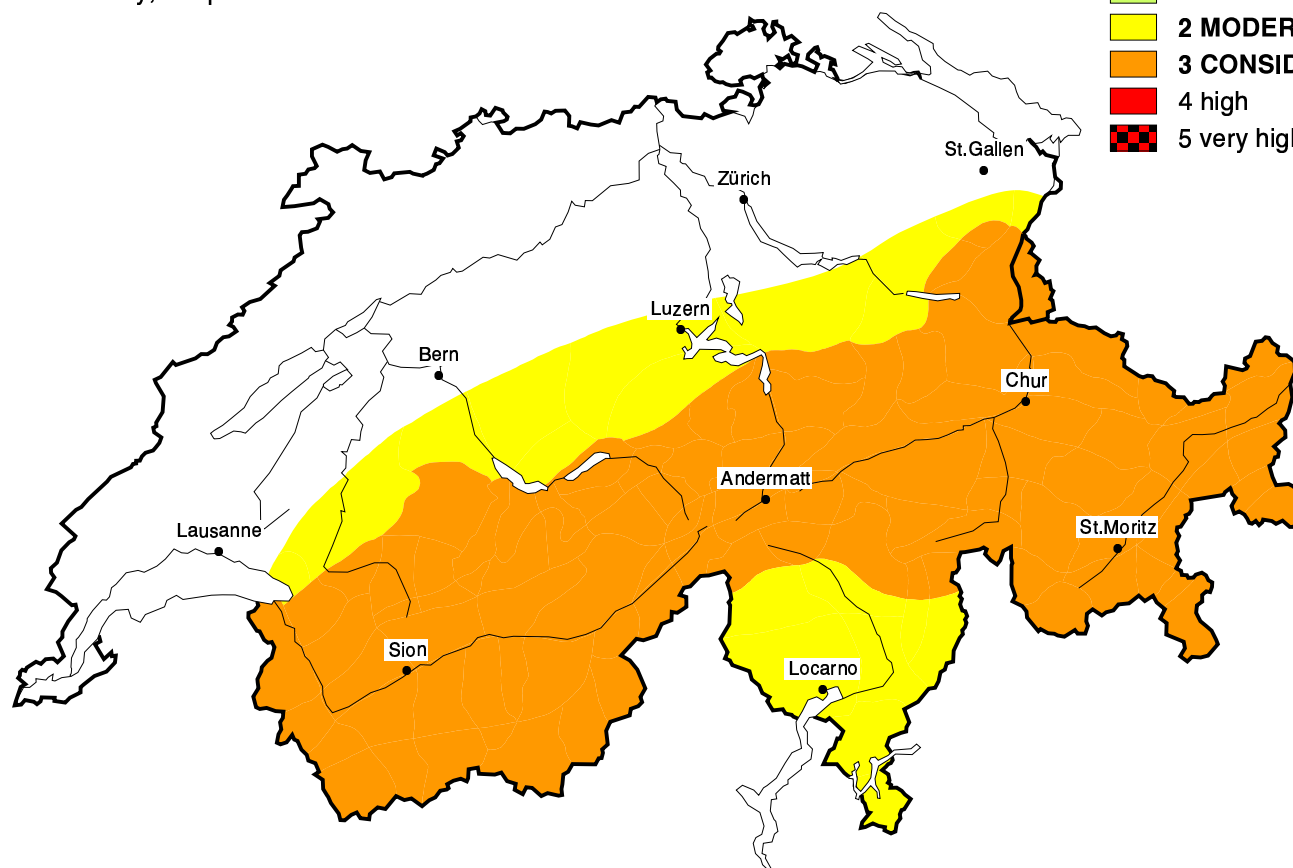
© WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF

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

for Friday, 8. April 2011

Danger level

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



© WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF

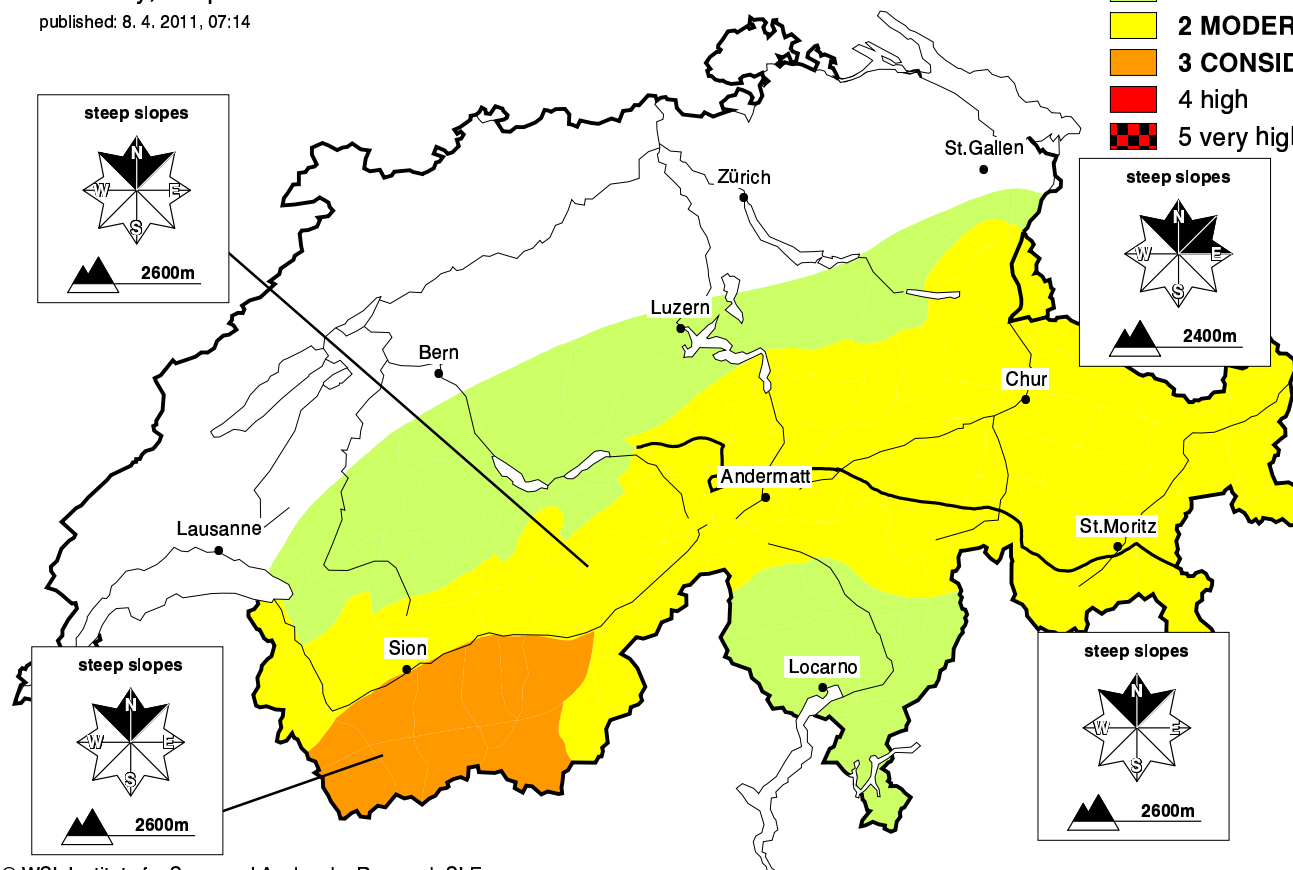
## Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 8. April 2011

published: 8. 4. 2011, 07:14

Danger level

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



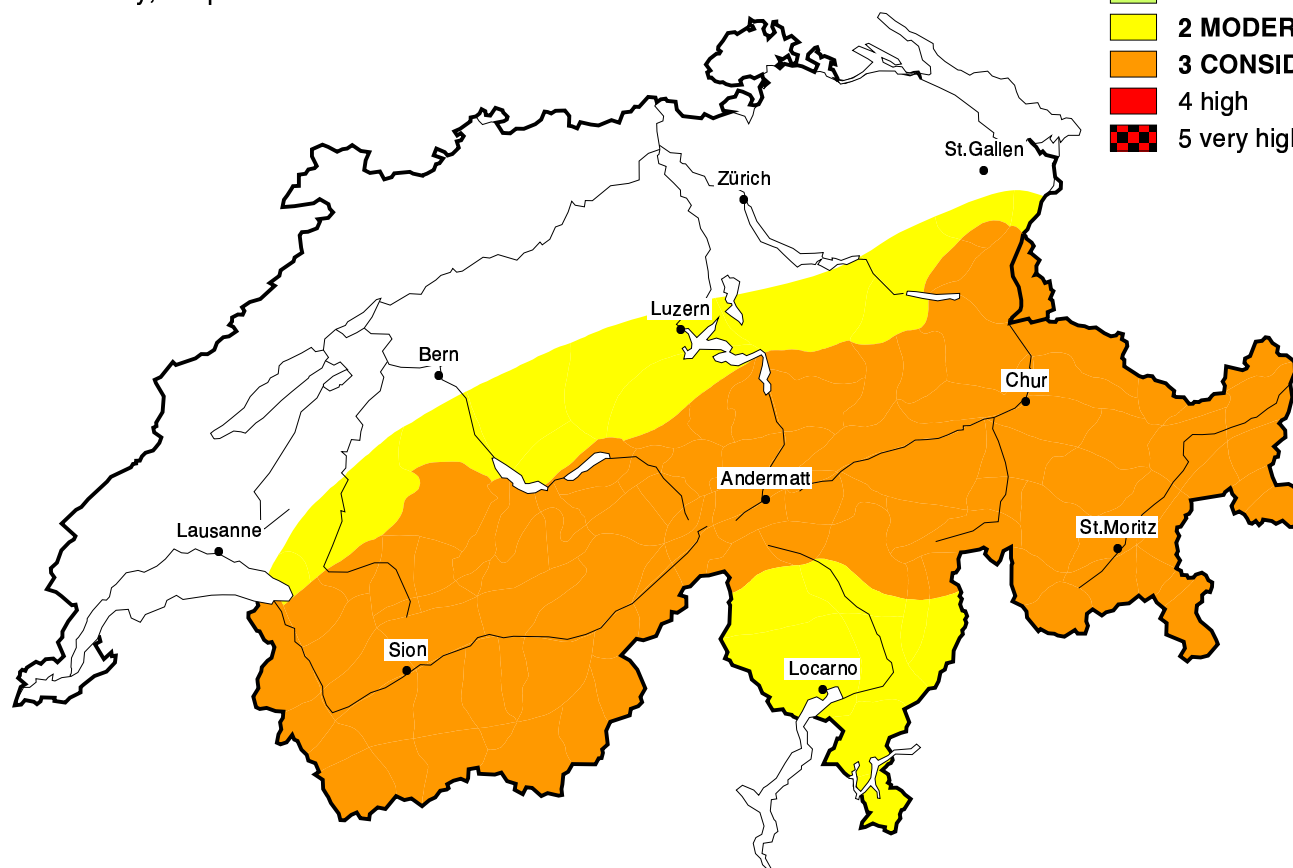
© WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF

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

for Friday, 8. April 2011

Danger level

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



© WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF