

National avalanche bulletin no. 165

for Friday, 22 April 2011

issue date 21.4.2011, 18:30 hours

Favourable avalanche situation in the morning, increasing danger during the day

Current conditions

On Thursday it was sunny, accompanied by a bit of convective cloud build-up over the course of the day. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 6 degrees. The southerly wind was blowing at light to moderate strength. On north facing slopes, the snow lines are 1600 to 1800 m widespread; in the Valais the snowline is at 2000 m in some places. On south facing slopes, snowlines lie between 2000 and 2400 m.

The snowpack surface above approximately 2600 m on north facing slopes is still powdery in some places. Lying on top of the snowpack surface on east, south and west facing slopes is generally a crust capable of bearing loads, which softens up over the course of the day. The snow layering is weakest on north facing slopes above approximately 2500 m in southern Valais and in the inneralpine regions of Grisons.

Short-term development

On Thursday night, the skies will be clear. During the morning on Good Friday, it will be sunny. Over the course of the day, convective cloud will build up, particularly in western and southern regions. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 7 degrees in northern regions, plus 5 degrees in southern regions. The southerly wind will be blowing at light to moderate velocity. Through the daytime warming cycle, the snowpack in all expositions will lose its firmness.

Avalanche danger forecast for Good Friday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Low danger of dry avalanches (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep, north facing slopes. Particularly in the southern sector of the Valais and the inneralpine regions of Grisons, avalanches can in isolated cases fracture in more deeply embedded layers inside the old snowpack. Such hazardous zones occur seldom. The likelihood of dry avalanches triggering will increase somewhat over the course of the day.

Danger of wet avalanches:

Throughout all regions of the Swiss Alps not including the Prealps, and not including the regions of central Ticino, lower Val Calanca and lower Val Moesa, the danger of wet avalanches will rise to Danger Level 2, "moderate", over the course of the day. Below about 2800 m, isolated wet snowslides and wet snow avalanches are possible. Ascents to huts and backcountry ski tours should be terminated in sufficient time. In the Prealps, in central Ticino, in lower Val Calanca and in lower Val Moesa, the danger will remain "low" (Level 1), due to the lack of snow. In isolated cases, small sized wet snowslides are possible on very steep, shady slopes.

Trend for Saturday and Easter Sunday

On Saturday it will be predominantly sunny, particularly in eastern regions, with a tendency towards foehn winds. Elsewhere, there will be increased build-up of convective cloud. On Easter Sunday, a larger build-up of convective cloud is anticipated in all regions over the course of the day. On both days, showers are likely in the afternoon, especially in western and southern regions. Following nights of clear skies, a favourable avalanche situation will prevail in the early morning hours. The danger is expected to subsequently increase 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**

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Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

-- Central Switzerland
-- Lower Valais / VD
-- Upper Valais
-- North and Central Grisons
-- South Grisons
-- Bernese Oberland
-- Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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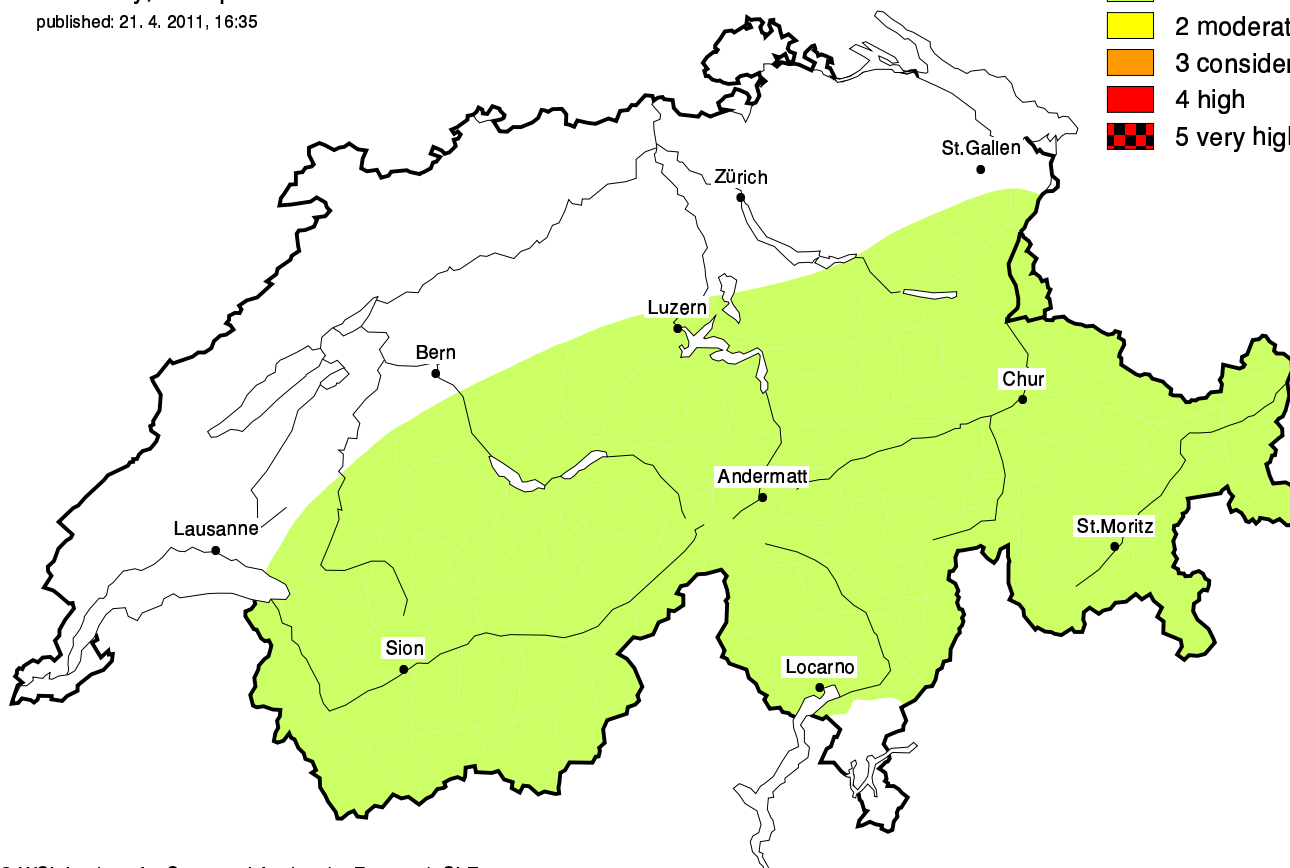
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 22. April 2011

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Danger level

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



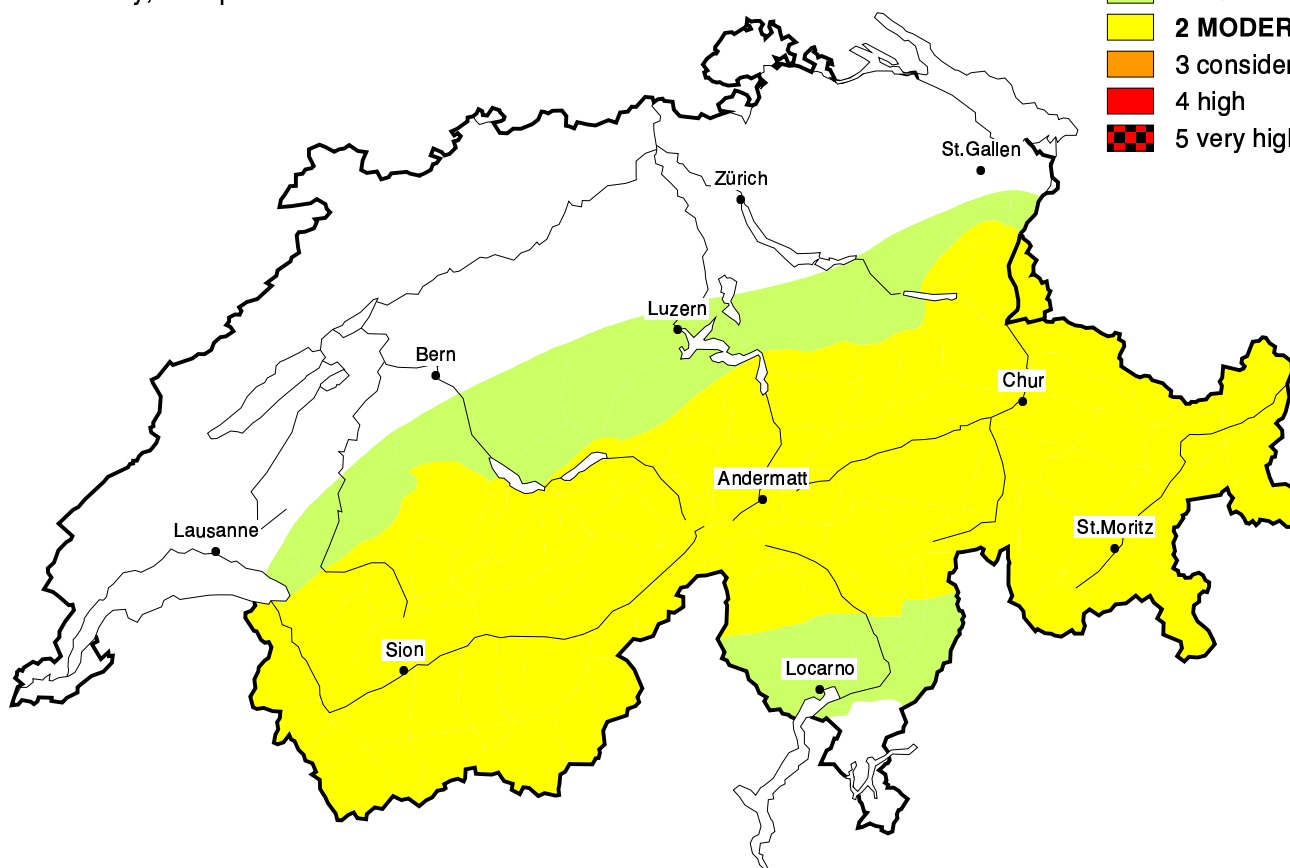
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Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

for Friday, 22. April 2011

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