

## National avalanche bulletin no. 25

for Tuesday, 20 December 2011

issue date 19.12.2011, 18:30 hours

### *Widespread considerable avalanche danger*

#### Current conditions

On Monday morning some further snow fell in the north. Some bright spells occurred during the day. From Sunday evening until Monday evening, 10 to 20 cm of snow fell on the northern flank of the Alps, but the snowfall was lighter further south. The westerly wind was light to moderate. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 11 degrees.

The layers of fresh snow and the snow drift accumulations from last week's heavy snowfall, some of which are deep, are becoming increasingly stable. This applies in particular to the northern flank of the Alps, northern Valais and western Lower Valais. From southern Upper Valais, to northern Ticino and the Bernina region, above approximately 2500 m last week's fresh snow and snow drift accumulations are lying on top of an old snowpack that is weakly bonded in some places.

#### Short-term development

On Monday night, snowfall will arrive from the northwest. During the day, snow will fall in the north, and it will be cloudy in the south. By Tuesday evening, 15 to 30 cm of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Alps. In Valais and northern and central Grisons, 10 to 20 cm of snow will fall, but less snow will fall further south. The northwesterly wind will strengthen during the day and be strong at high altitude. At around midday, temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 7 degrees.

The wind will transport loosely bonded old snow and the fresh snow. The conditions will give rise to fresh snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais; northern Ticino; northern and central Grisons:

*Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are wind-loaded slopes of all aspects. They are to be found above approximately 1800 m on the northern flank of the Alps, and above approximately 2000 m in the other regions subject to this danger level. Fresh snow drift accumulations represent the main danger. The higher the altitude, the more prevalent the snow drift accumulations. They will increase in size during the day. Avalanches can be triggered by a single person. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger is required.

Central and southern Ticino; Engadine; Grisons southern valleys:

*Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Some of the more recent snow drift accumulations can be released easily and must be evaluated with care and prudence. As the wind picks up, snow drift accumulations will form during the day and the avalanche danger will increase a little. Careful route selection is important.

All regions: in particular in the regions that have a lot of snow, full-depth avalanches can be triggered below approximately 1800 m.

#### Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On Wednesday, snow will fall in the north and it will be fairly sunny in the south. On Thursday, short bright spells will be followed by some further snow in the north. The snowfall level will rise to approximately 1000 m. On each of the next two days, the wind will be strong from the north. The wind may cause the avalanche danger to increase a little in some 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](http://wap.slf.ch)

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

**Phone:** 187 (Fr. 0.90/call and min)

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# Avalanche danger forecast

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Danger level

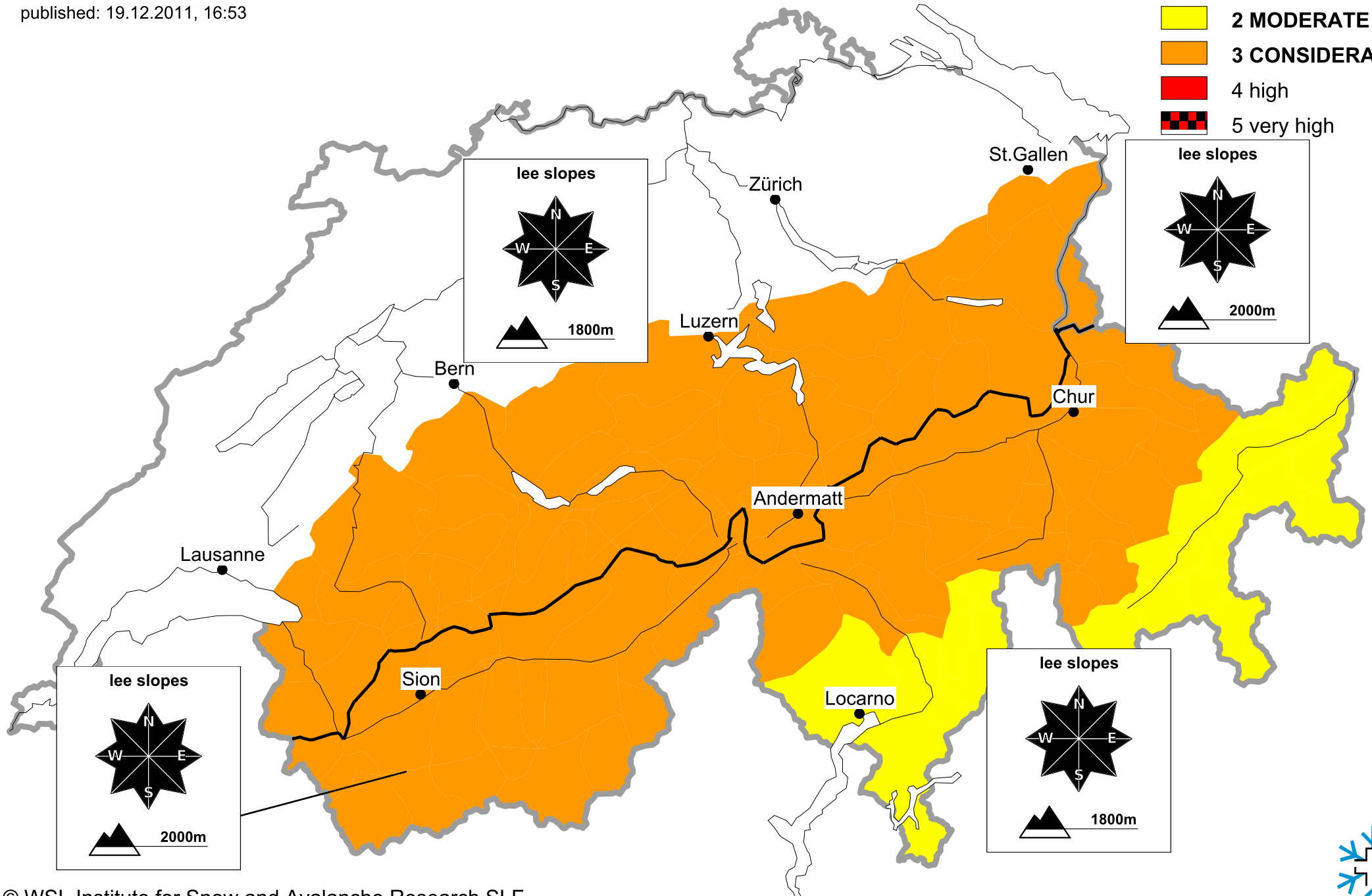
 1 low

 **2 MODERATE**

 **3 CONSIDERABLE**

 4 high

 5 very high



# Avalanche danger forecast

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