

## National avalanche bulletin no. 34

for Thursday, 29 December 2011

issue date 28.12.2011, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable avalanche danger from Oberalp Pass into Engadine*

#### Current conditions

On Wednesday it was sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m was a mild plus 4 degrees. The wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity, shifting from easterly to southwesterly. Particularly on the Main Alpine Ridge and in the Upper Engadine above approximately 2500 m, the most deeply embedded layers of the snowpack are faceted and inadequately consolidated in places. On north facing slopes there is surface hoar widespread.

#### Short-term development

On Thursday in western and southern regions it will be overcast, accompanied by bright intervals during the afternoon in particular. On the northern flank of the Alps, 5 to 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated down to low altitudes, elsewhere less snowfall is expected. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will drop noticeably: down to minus 8 degrees in northern regions and minus 6 degrees in southern regions. The wind will shift from westerly to northerly, be blowing at light to moderate velocity and will transport the new fallen snow.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Main Alpine Ridge from Oberalp Pass into Avers; region of Bivio; Upper Engadine and southern Lower Engadine:

*Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 2500 m in northwestern to northern to eastern aspects in particular. Avalanches can be triggered in the old snow, which is weak, even by one single backcountry skier or freerider and subsequently attain medium size. The avalanche prone locations are difficult to discern; whumpfung sounds are possible indicators. Caution is urged towards older snowdrift accumulations and in transition areas from shallow to deep snow. In outlying terrain away from secured ski runs, prudence and experience in evaluating avalanche dangers are imperative.

Northern flank of the Alps not including Prealps; Valais; northern Grisons; central Grisons not including the regions of the Main Alpine Ridge and not including the region of Bivio; in addition, northern Lower Engadine; Münstertal; Puschlav; Bergell; lower Val Moesa; lower Val Calanca; central and northern Ticino not including Bleniotal:

*Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 2200 m in western to northern to eastern aspects in particular. Avalanches in the old snowpack are especially easily triggered where the snow is relatively shallow and in transition areas from shallow to deep snow. In southern Valais, in the indicated regions of the Main Alpine Ridge and in central Grisons, the avalanche prone locations occur more frequently above approximately 2500 m. The danger zones are difficult to recognize; whumpfung noises can indicate their presence. A cautious route selection is important.

Prealps; Sotto Ceneri:

*Low avalanche danger (Level 1)*

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in shady spots with relatively shallow snow. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered, but are very small.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, particularly on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais and in northern Grisons, full depth snowslides are possible below about 2400 m. They release in particular on steep grassy slopes and roadside embankments, especially in eastern to southern to western aspects.

#### Trend for Friday and New Year's Eve

On both days it will be heavily overcast. Accompanied by storm strength northwesterly winds, snowfall down to low altitudes is anticipated, which will be prolonged in western and in northern regions. On New Year's Eve, the snowfall level will ascend up to intermediate altitudes. In the furthest southern regions it will be partly sunny on both days. The avalanche danger is expected to escalate significantly, particularly in western and northern 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)

**Feedback information:**

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

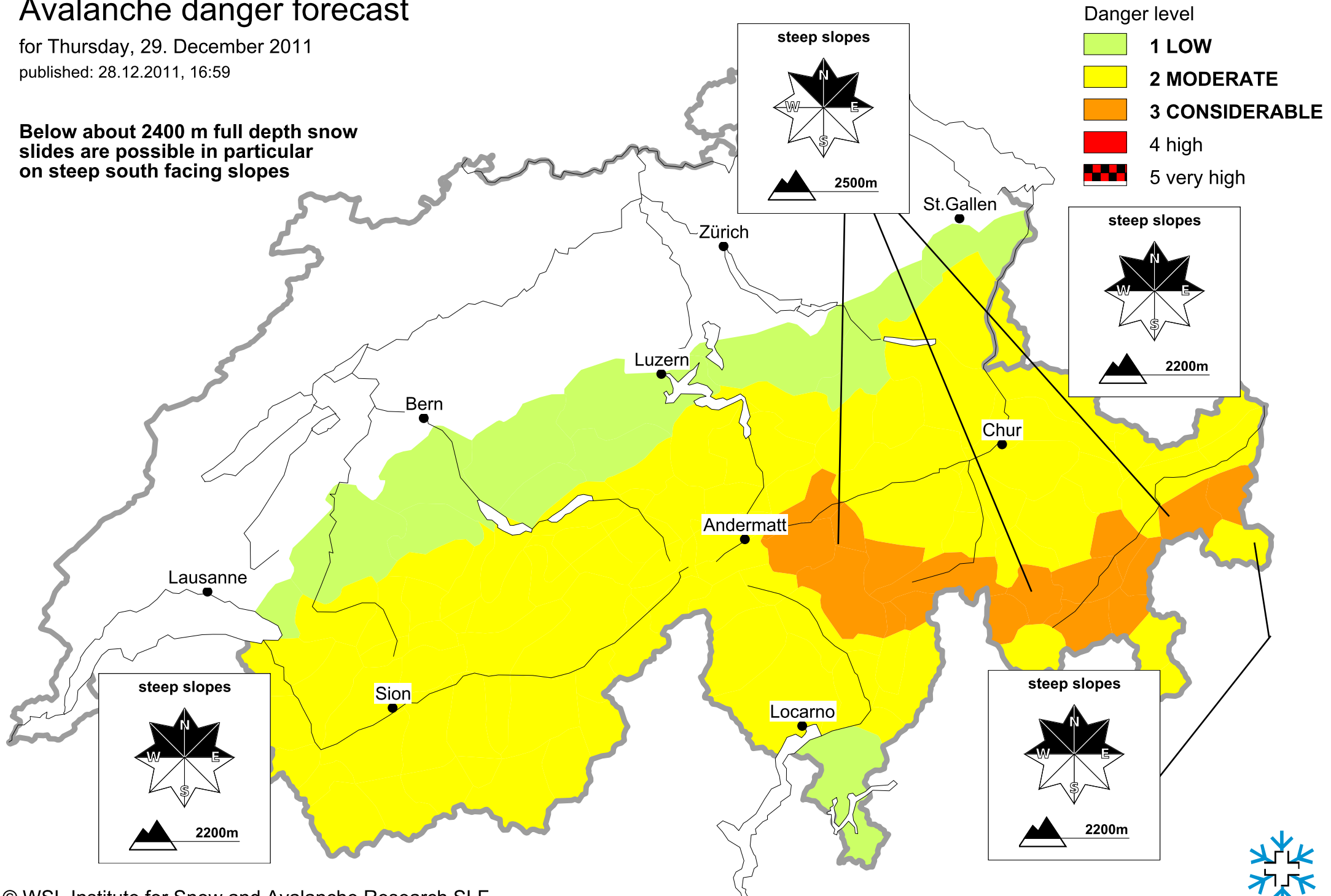
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 29. December 2011

published: 28.12.2011, 16:59

**Below about 2400 m full depth snow slides are possible in particular on steep south facing slopes**



# Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 29. December 2011

published: 29.12.2011, 07:36

**Below about 2400 m full depth snow slides are possible in particular on steep south facing slopes**

