

## National avalanche bulletin no. 93

for Sunday, 26 February 2012

issue date 25.2.2012, 18:30 hours

### *Considerable danger of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides widespread*

#### Current conditions

Following a night of generally overcast skies, it was cloudy in northern and eastern regions, accompanied by scattered bright intervals, on Saturday. In western regions it was partly, in southern regions mostly sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 5 degrees in western regions, plus 1 degree in eastern regions and plus 8 degrees in southern regions. The wind was blowing at light to moderate strength from the northwest.

In the uppermost layers of the snowpack, the snow layering is unfavourable in some places of Lower Valais, on the northern flank of the Alps and in Grisons more than anywhere else. Due to the intense daytime warming, the snowpack has become thoroughly wet to an increasing degree at intermediate altitudes. At high altitudes the uppermost layers of the snowpack are moist on east to south to west facing slopes in particular. The frequency of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides has been high during the last few days. This has been the case at intermediate altitudes in all aspects and on south facing slopes up to altitudes of approximately 2600 m.

#### Short-term development

On Saturday night in northern and eastern regions, light precipitation is expected to set in. During the day on Sunday in western and southern regions, it will be predominantly sunny. In northern and eastern regions it will be cloudy during the morning, accompanied by light snowfall, then turn increasingly bright during the afternoon. By Sunday evening from the eastern Bernese Alps to Liechtenstein as well as in Grisons, a few centimeters of snowfall is expected; in the furthestmost eastern regions, as much as 10 cm of new fallen snow. The snowfall level will drop from about 1600 m on Saturday evening down to approximately 700 m by midday on Sunday. At high altitudes, a moderate to strong velocity northerly wind will be blowing.

Due to the rainfall, the snowpack at intermediate altitudes on steep slopes in all aspects will be weakened.

#### Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern flank of the Alps; Valais not including southern Simplon region; central part of the Main Alpine Ridge; Grisons not including the regions of lower Val Calanca, lower Val Moesa, lower Puschlav:

*Considerable danger of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides (Level 3)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in northeastern to southern to northwestern aspects below about 2600 m as well as on north facing slopes below about 2000 m. Even during Saturday night in northern and eastern regions, generally small to medium sized, naturally triggered wet avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected. These avalanches can in isolated cases place exposed sections of transportation routes at risk. In the Valais, in the case of adequate outgoing nocturnal radiation, the danger of wet snow avalanches will increase only during the course of the morning. Full depth snowslides are possible at any and all times.

Southern Simplon region; regions south of the central part of the Main Alpine Ridge; lower Puschlav:

*Moderate danger of wet avalanches and full depth snowslides (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in northeastern to southern to northwestern aspects below about 2600 m. During the course of the day, naturally triggered moist sluffs and small avalanches are possible.

The danger of dry avalanches in the regions on the Main Alpine Ridge and northwards thereof is "moderate", Level 2, elsewhere the danger level is "low", Level 1. The uppermost layers of the snowpack are prone to triggering in places. The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on north facing slopes above approximately 2000 m. They are discernible only with difficulty. In isolated cases, avalanches can still be triggered with ease. A cautious route selection, as well as maintaining distances between persons when ascending the mountainside, and descending singly are important.

#### Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On Monday, despite cloudbanks, it will be predominantly sunny. On Tuesday in northern and eastern regions, it will be partly sunny; elsewhere mostly so. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease incrementally. The danger of wet avalanches is subject to a daytime warming cycle. The danger of full depth snowslides is not expected to change significantly.

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)

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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>

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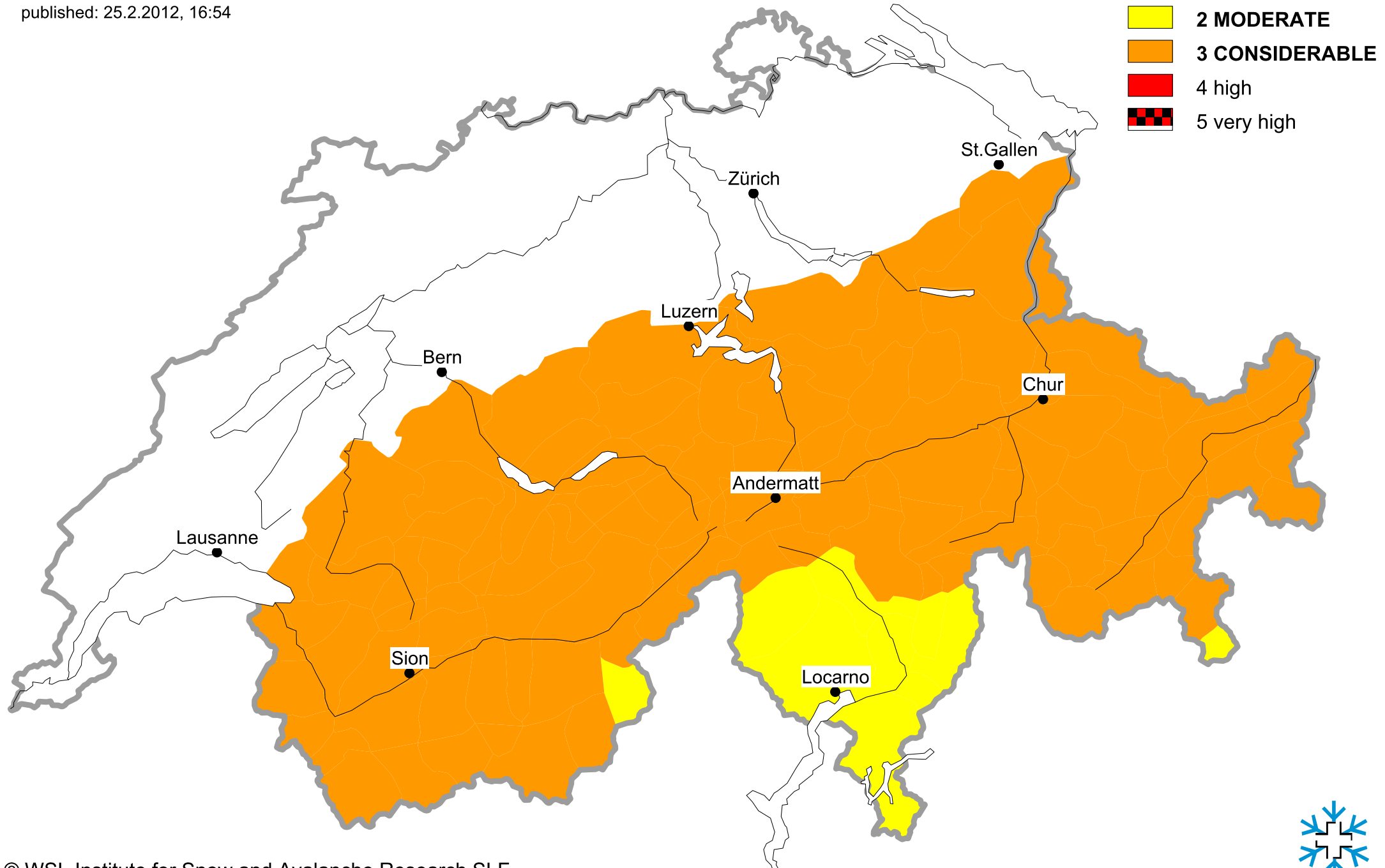
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