

National avalanche bulletin no. 98

for Friday, 2 March 2012

issue date 1.3.2012, 18:30 hours

Avalanche danger will increase significantly during the day

Current conditions

Skies were clear on Wednesday night. Above approximately 2000 m, a surface crust formed which is capable of bearing loads. During the day on Thursday it was sunny and very mild. The midday temperature at 2000 m was plus 10 degrees. Light winds were blowing.

In some parts of the Valais and Grisons, more than anywhere else, there are still unfavourable layers of snow embedded near the surface of the snowpack in some places. The snowpack on very steep, south facing slopes below about 2500 m is thoroughly wet; this is the case on steep north facing slopes below about 1600 m. On east, south and west facing slopes, the uppermost layers of the snowpack are moist up to about 3000 m.

Short-term development

On Friday, following a night of clear skies, it will again be sunny and very mild. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be plus 7 degrees. Winds will be light.

Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Southern Lower Valais; Turtmanntal; Zermatt; lower valleys of Visp; central Grisons: Schanfigg; Davos; Silvretta; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:

Moderate danger of dry avalanches (Level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes, primarily in northwestern to northern to northeastern aspects, above approximately 2400 m. Isolated avalanches can be triggered in the snowpack layers nearest the surface primarily by large additional loading. The avalanche prone locations are discernible only with difficulty. Very steep north facing slopes should be evaluated with great care and descended singly.

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

Low danger of dry avalanches (Level 1)

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in extremely steep terrain. The danger of falling should be taken into consideration.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides tends to increase significantly through the solar radiation over the course of the day. On the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais not including the regions of Saas Fee and the southern Simplon region, in northern and central Grisons and in the Engadine, the avalanche danger level will increase to Level 3 (considerable); in the remaining regions it will climb to Level 2 (moderate). Naturally triggered wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides can be expected on steep, east to south to west facing slopes below about 2600 m; on steep, north facing slopes, they are possible below about 1800 m. The avalanches may well reach medium size and can place exposed sections of transportation routes at risk. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours should be brought to a close early in the day.

Full depth snowslides are possible even during the night and during the morning hours. Caution is urged below glide cracks in the snowpack.

Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Saturday, cloud will move in from the west. Towards evening and on Sunday, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated in northern regions in particular. Already on Saturday, temperatures are expected to decrease somewhat, and on Sunday drop significantly further. The danger of wet snow avalanches is expected to subside. Full depth snowslides can still release naturally at any and all times.

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

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

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

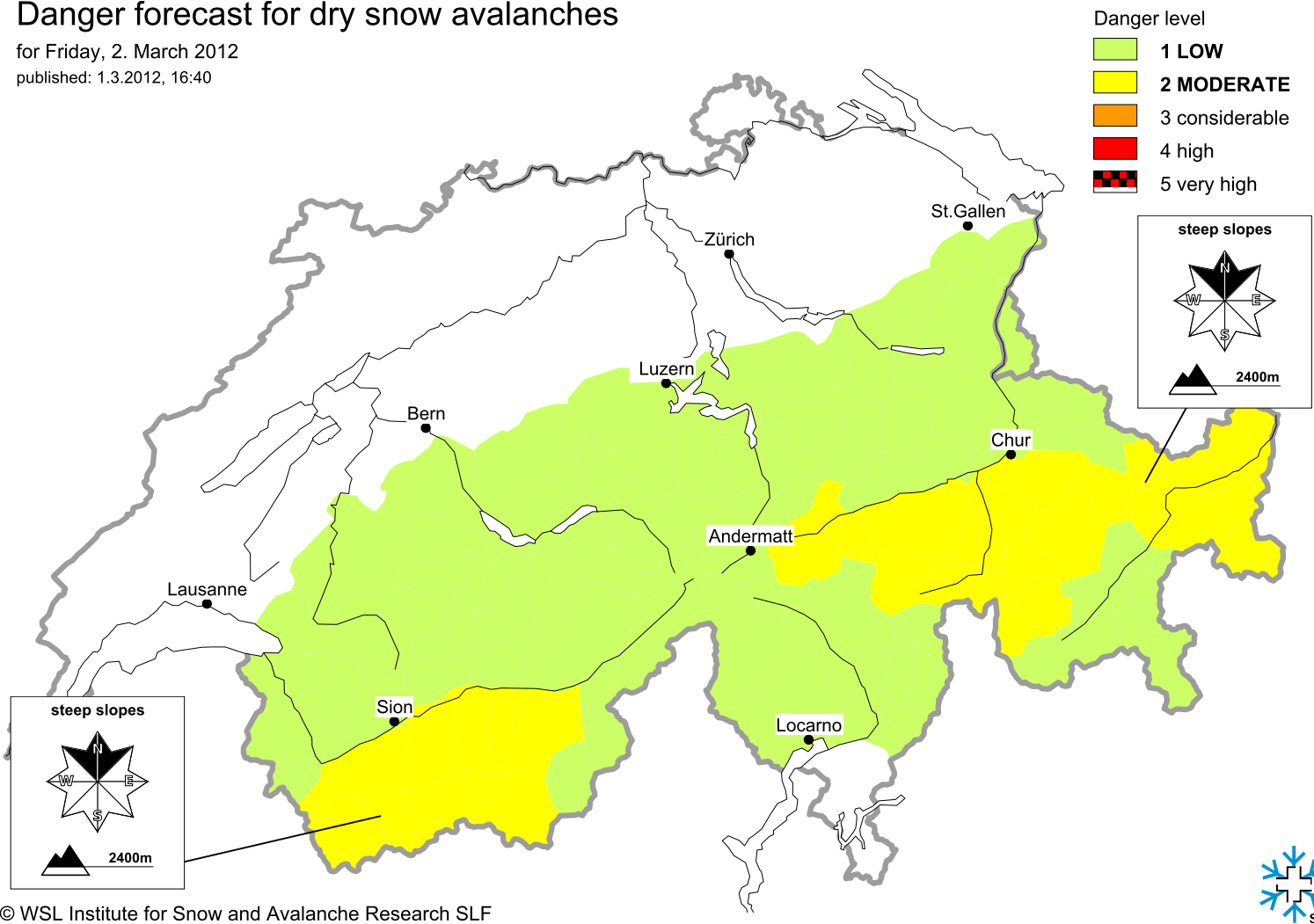
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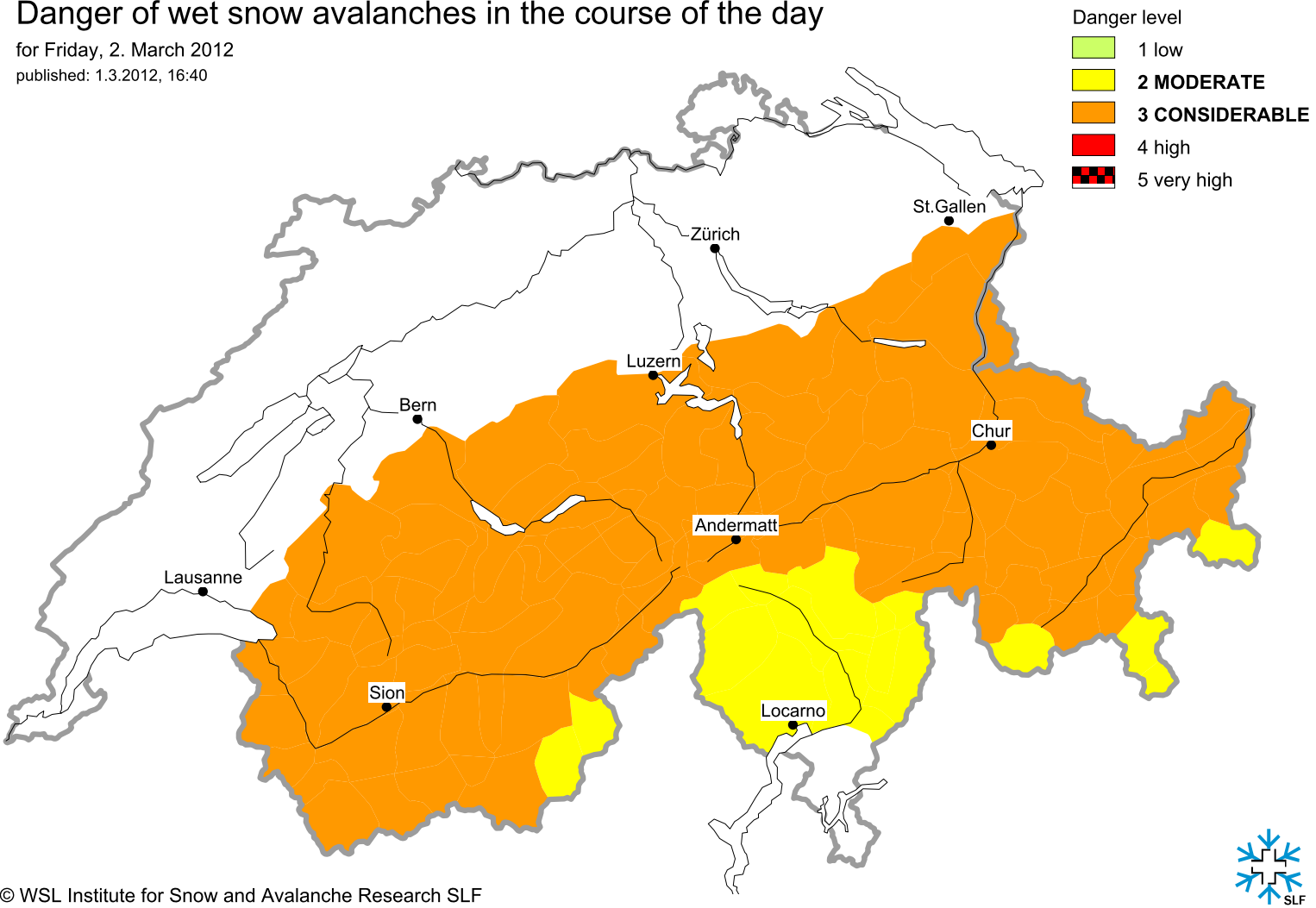
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

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published: 1.3.2012, 16:40



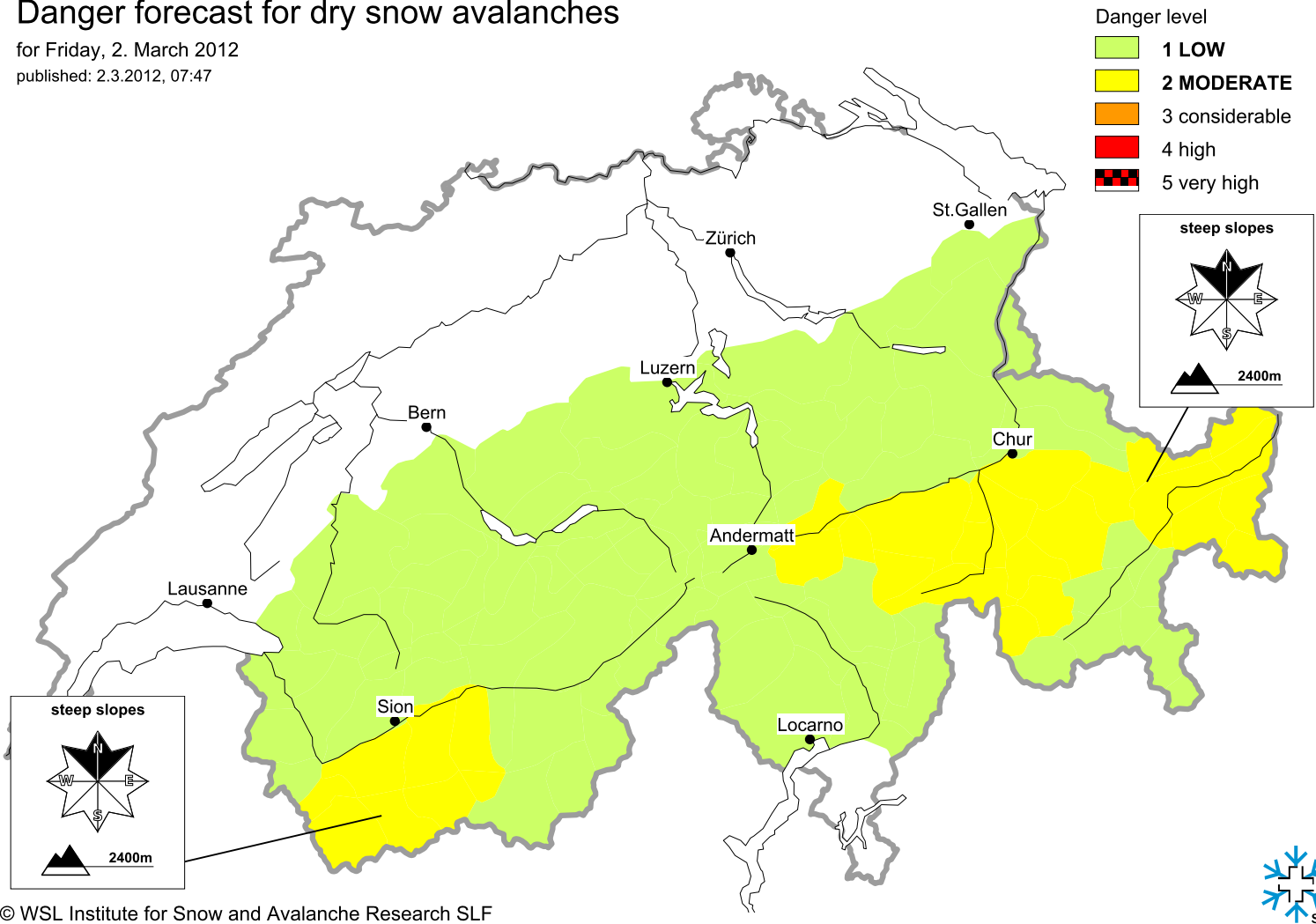
Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

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published: 2.3.2012, 07:47



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published: 2.3.2012, 07:47

