

National avalanche bulletin no. 107

for Sunday, 11 March 2012

issue date 10.3.2012, 18:30 hours

Considerable avalanche danger in some regions, beware snowdrift

Current conditions

On Saturday it was predominantly sunny, in spite of high altitude cloudbanks. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 1 degree in northern regions and plus 3 degrees in southern regions. The wind at high altitudes was blowing at moderate to strong velocity on the northern Alpine Ridge, elsewhere at light to moderate strength, from the northeast. Small to medium sized snowdrift accumulations which formed this week are prone to triggering in some places. The snowpack has consolidated well, for the most part, in its more deeply embedded layers. In spots where the snow is shallow, the snow layering is weak in some areas. This is particularly the case in southern Valais and in Grisons. On steep, south facing slopes the snowpack below about 2500 m, on north facing slopes below about 1600 m, is thoroughly wet.

Short-term development

On Sunday it will be generally sunny in western and southern regions. In northeastern regions it will be predominantly overcast. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be between minus 3 degrees in northern regions and zero degrees in southern regions. The wind at high altitudes will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity, in high alpine regions at storm strength, from the northeast. Winds will transport the loosely packed snow nearest the surface.

Avalanche danger forecast for Sunday

Northern Alpine Ridge from the region of Villars into the Glarner Alps; Gotthard region:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in southern to northern to northeastern aspects above approximately 2400 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations, which can be triggered with ease. They are expected to increase in size and frequency, which will lead to the avalanche danger level rising to Level 3 (considerable) during the course of the day.

Remaining regions of the northern flank of the Alps; Emosson; southern Valais not including Upper Goms; Grisons not including the regions of Tavetsch and Flims; Ticino not including the Gotthard region:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

In the indicated regions of the northern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in southern to northern to northeastern aspects above approximately 1800 m. In the indicated regions of the Valais and Grisons excluding Val Calanca and Val Moesa, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in western to northern to eastern aspects above approximately 2200 m as well as in ridgeline and pass areas in all aspects. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps not including the Gotthard region, the danger zones are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in southeastern to southern to northern aspects above approximately 2000 m.

In all regions of this danger level, the uppermost layers of the snowpack are trigger sensitive in some places. Freshly drifted snow in particular should be evaluated with great care. A cautious route selection is recommended.

The danger of wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides is expected to increase during the course of the day in the western part of the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais in particular. This is especially the case on steep slopes in eastern to southern to western aspects below about 2600 m. Isolated full depth snowslides are possible at any time of night or during the early morning hours. Full depth snowslides can attain medium size and place exposed sections of transportation routes at risk.

Trend for Monday and Tuesday

On both days it is expected to be predominantly sunny and mild. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The frequency of full depth snowslides will escalate. The danger of wet snow avalanches will be subject to a daytime warming cycle.

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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0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax
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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>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

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Feedback information:

Email: lw@slf.ch

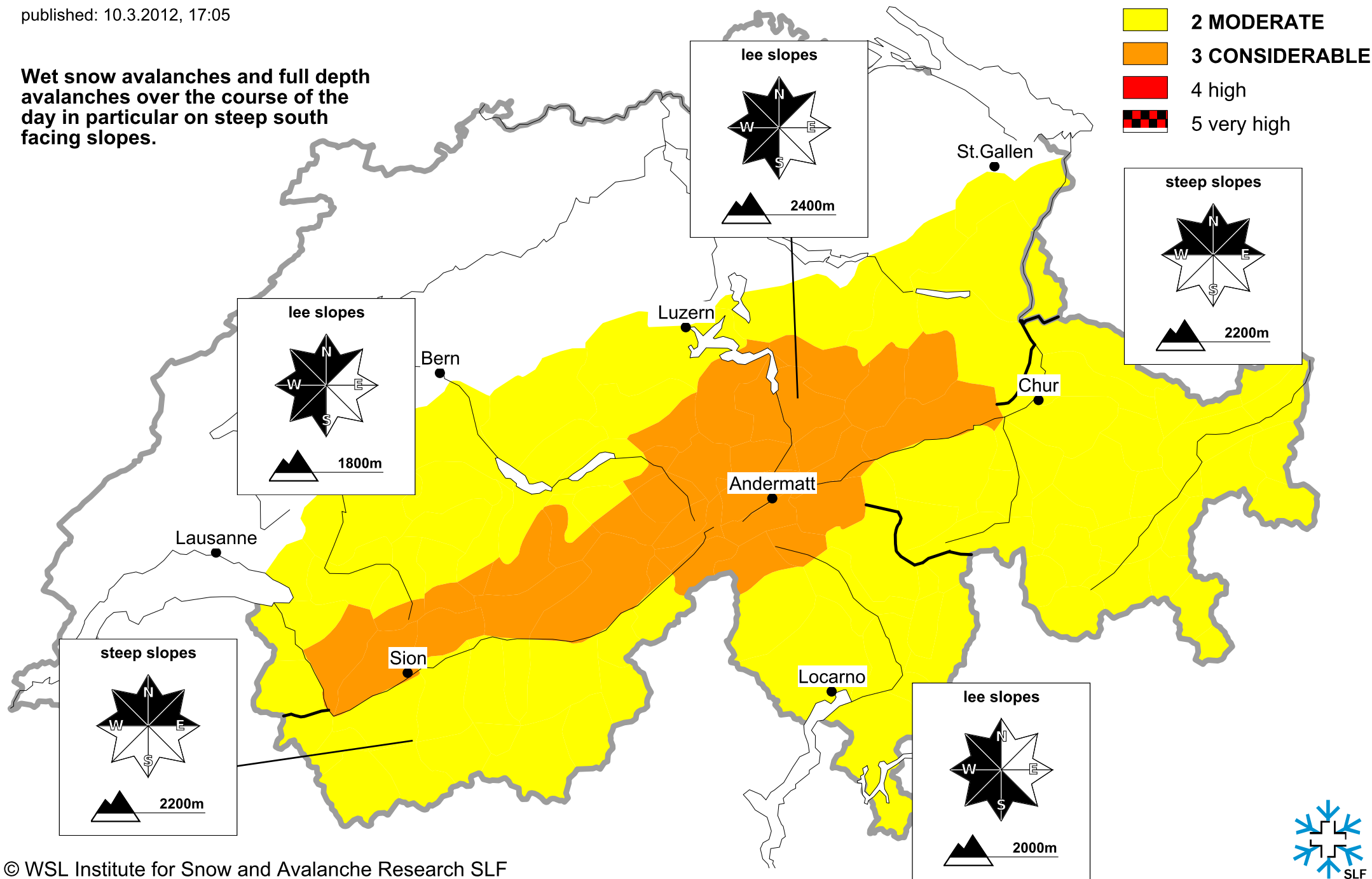
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Avalanche danger forecast

for Sunday, 11. March 2012

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Wet snow avalanches and full depth avalanches over the course of the day in particular on steep south facing slopes.



Avalanche danger forecast

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Wet snow avalanches and full depth avalanches over the course of the day in particular on steep south facing slopes.

