

National avalanche bulletin no. 108

for Monday, 12 March 2012

issue date 11.3.2012, 18:30 hours

Moderate avalanche danger, caution urged towards snowdrift and gliding snow

Current conditions

On Sunday in western and southern regions it was predominantly sunny, in eastern regions it was overcast. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were between minus 3 degrees in northern regions and plus 4 degrees in southern regions. The wind on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge at altitudes over approximately 2500 m was blowing at moderate to strong velocity, elsewhere at light to moderate strength, from the northeast. The snowdrift accumulations which formed in recent days are prone to triggering in some places. Their size and spread tend to increase with ascending altitude. In its more deeply embedded layers, the snowpack has consolidated well in general. In spots where the snow is shallow, however, the snow layering is weak in some places. This is particularly true 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 night in eastern regions, a small amount of snowfall is anticipated. During the day on Monday, it will be predominantly sunny. The temperatures are expected to rise from the west. At midday at 2000 m, they will be plus 4 degrees in western and southern regions and minus 2 degrees in eastern regions. The wind will be blowing at moderate to strong velocity on the northern Alpine Ridge and on the Main Alpine Ridge at altitudes over approximately 2500 m, elsewhere at light to moderate velocity, from the northeast.

Avalanche danger forecast for Monday

Entire region of the Swiss Alps:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

On the northern flank of the Alps and in the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in southern to northern to eastern aspects, as well as in ridgeline and pass areas in all aspects, above approximately 2000 m.

In the Valais and in Grisons not including the regions of Val Calanca and Val Moesa, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on steep slopes in southern to northern to northeastern aspects, as well as in ridgeline and pass areas in all aspects, above approximately 2400 m.

In all regions of this danger level, freshly formed and somewhat older snowdrift accumulations can be triggered with ease in some places, but are generally easy to recognize. Both size and spread of the snowdrift accumulations tend to increase with ascending altitude. In high alpine regions, the danger should be assessed as higher. 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 primarily in the western and central parts of the northern flank of the Alps as well as in the Valais. This is particularly the case on steep slopes in eastern to southern to western aspects below approximately 2600 m. Isolated full depth snowslides are possible even during the night and in the early morning hours. Full depth avalanches can reach medium size and place exposed sections of transportation routes at risk.

Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

It is expected to be sunny and mild on both days. The danger of dry avalanches will diminish. 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)

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)

Feedback information:

Email: lwp@slf.ch

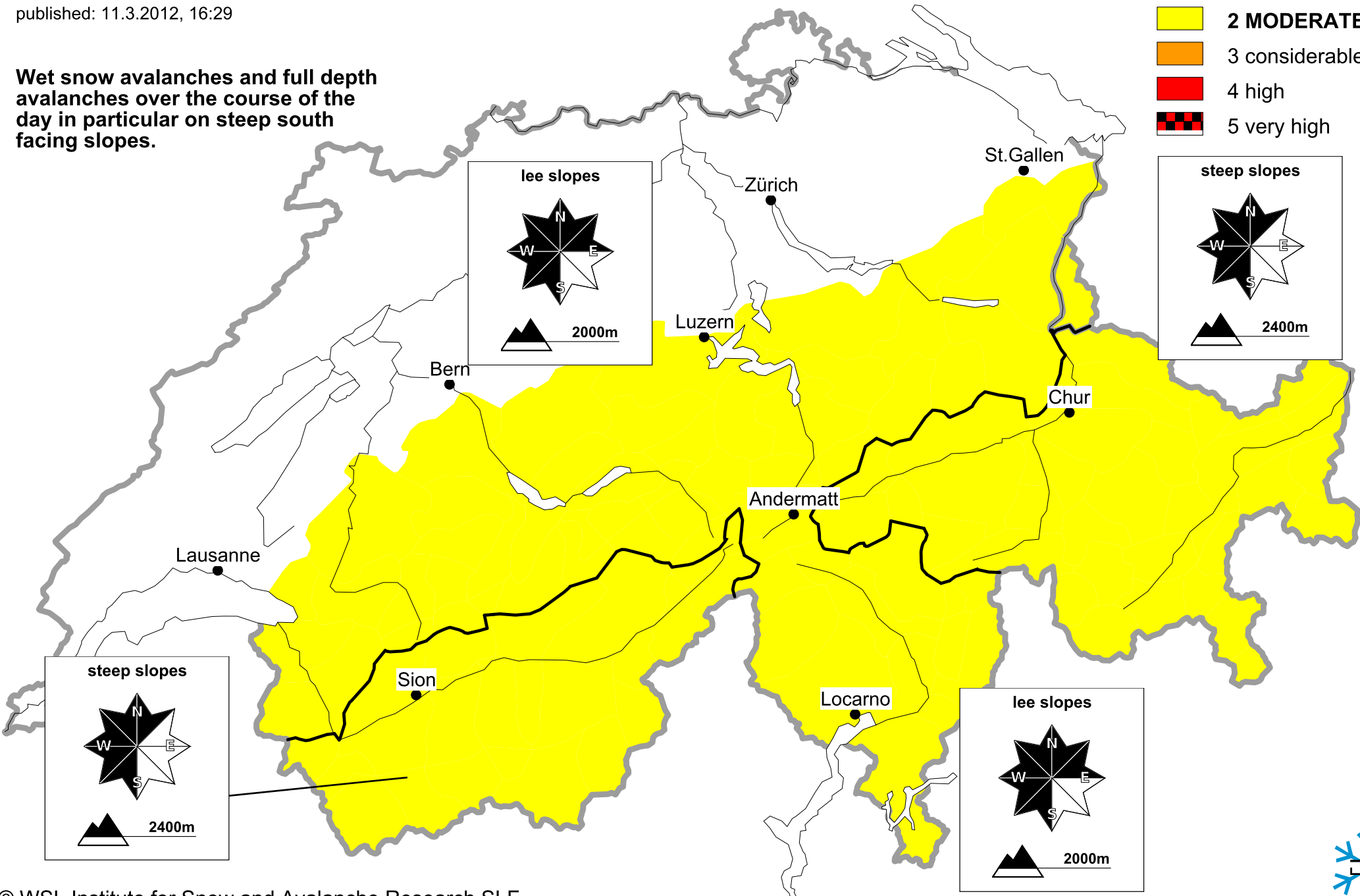
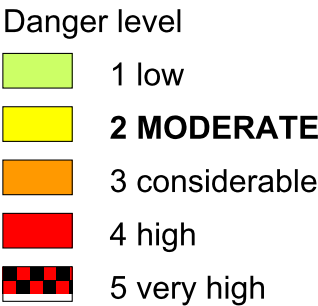
Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88

Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 12. March 2012

published: 11.3.2012, 16:29

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



Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 12. March 2012

published: 12.3.2012, 07:56

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

