

National avalanche bulletin no. 116

for Tuesday, 20 March 2012

issue date 19.3.2012, 18:30 hours

Caution is to be exercised on first sunny day after snowfall

Current conditions

On Monday, the weather was overcast and snow fell above approximately 1000 m. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 4 degrees. The wind was light to moderate from the north to east.

Since Saturday, the following amounts of snow have fallen: 50 to 70 cm on the main Alpine ridge from the Gotthard region to the Bernina region and to the south; up to 90 cm in the Upper Valle Maggia, Upper Valle Leventina and Tavetsch; 30 to 50 cm on the main Alpine ridge from Great St Bernhard to Goms, on the northern Alpine ridge from the Brienzersee to the Glarus Alps, and in central Grisons and Upper Engadine; 15 to 30 cm in the other regions.

Short-term development

On Monday night the snowfall will cease. During the day the weather will be fairly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 1 degree. The wind direction will change to southerly. The wind will be light to moderate. Fresh snow drift accumulations may form in some localities.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Main Alpine ridge from Great St Bernhard to the Bernina region and regions to the south; northern Alpine ridge from Interlaken to Sargans excluding the Prealps; Grisons excluding Prättigau:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are steep slopes of all aspects. They are to be found above approximately 2000 m on the main Alpine ridge from the Gotthard region to the Bernina region and to the south, and in the Bivio and St Moritz regions, and above approximately 2200 m in the other regions subject to this danger level. The avalanche prone locations are more prevalent and the potential avalanches are larger in the first-named regions because of the influence of the wind and the larger quantities of fresh snow.

In all regions subject to this danger level, avalanches can be triggered by a single person. These can reach medium size. The solar radiation will increase the likelihood of avalanches being released during the day, and natural avalanches are possible. The danger increases with altitude. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger is required.

Prealps; northern flank of the Alps from Chablais to the Brienzersee; Valais excluding the main Alpine ridge; Alpstein; Liechtenstein; Prättigau:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. In some places, single persons can release avalanches. These are generally small. The danger increases with altitude. Careful route selection is required.

In all regions, natural small wet snow slides and wet avalanches are to be expected under the influence of the solar radiation. This applies on west and east facing slopes below approximately 2500 m, and on south facing slopes below approximately 3000 m. Individual full-depth avalanches up to medium size can still occur. Caution is to be exercised in areas below glide cracks.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

The weather will be fairly sunny. The wind will be mostly light to moderate, and temperatures will rise. The danger of dry avalanches will decrease. The danger of wet avalanches will increase during each of the next two days.

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
(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:

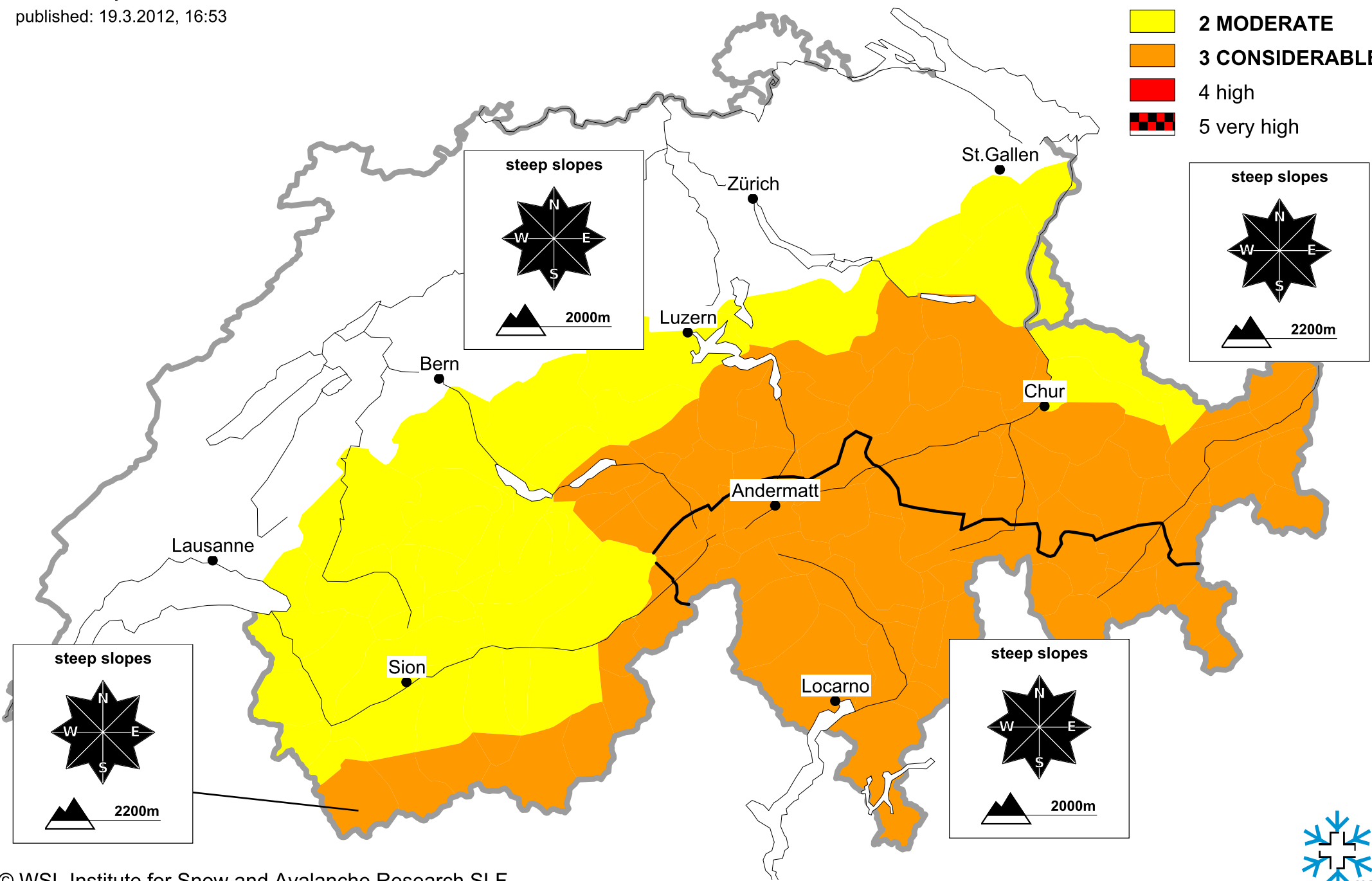
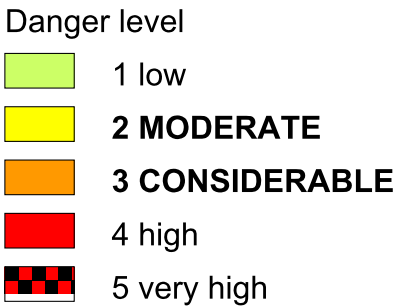
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