

## National avalanche bulletin no. 117

for Wednesday, 21 March 2012

issue date 20.3.2012, 18:30 hours

***Main danger posed by snow drift accumulations, considerable avalanche danger in some regions***

### Current conditions

Tuesday was mostly sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 2 degrees. The wind was stronger than expected, blowing moderate from the south on the northern Alpine ridge in particular.

The fresh layers of the snowpack that have formed in recent days and are deep in some places have not yet bonded sufficiently well with the old snowpack, especially on north facing slopes. In addition, in such aspects, the southerly wind has given rise to snow drift accumulations that are prone to triggering in some regions. Deeper layers of the snowpack are mostly well bonded. Deep in the snowpack, hardly any distinct weak layers exist.

### Short-term development

Tuesday night will be partly overcast. From Ticino to the Simplon region, a few centimetres of snow will fall above approximately 1600 m. The weather will be fairly sunny during the day in the north despite high-altitude cloudbanks. On the main Alpine ridge and to the south, it will be cloudy in the morning, but there will be bright spells in the afternoon. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will climb to plus 4 degrees in the north and plus 2 degrees in the south. The southerly wind will be light to moderate. Additional snow drift accumulations will form in some localities.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Alps from Les Diablerets to Liechtenstein excluding the Prealps; main Alpine ridge in Valais; northern Ticino; Grisons:

*Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)*

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on west to north to east facing wind-loaded slopes. They are to be found above approximately 2000 m on the northern flank of the Alps from Les Diablerets to Liechtenstein excluding both the Prealps and Urseren, and above approximately 2200 m in the other regions subject to this danger level. Avalanches can be triggered by a single person, in particular where snow drift accumulations have formed. In particular, avalanches are likely to be triggered within the snow cover that has formed in recent days or at the interface with the faceted old snow. They can reach medium size. Experience in the assessment of the avalanche danger is required.

Prealps; Vaud Alps; Valais excluding the regions on the main Alpine ridge; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

*Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

Avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on southwest to north to southeast facing steep slopes. They are to be found above approximately 1800 m in the Prealps, the Vaud Alps, Chablais, central Ticino and Sotto Ceneri, and above approximately 2000 m in the other regions. Fresh snow drift accumulations in particular can be released as avalanches by a single person. These are generally small. The prevalence of avalanche prone locations 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. They are likely to occur, in particular, on sun-exposed slopes below approximately 2800 m. Individual full-depth avalanches up to medium size can still occur. Caution is to be exercised in areas below glide cracks.

### Trend for Thursday and Friday

On Thursday, it will be mostly sunny in the north and sunny at times in the south. Friday will be sunny at times. 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  
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#### Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

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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

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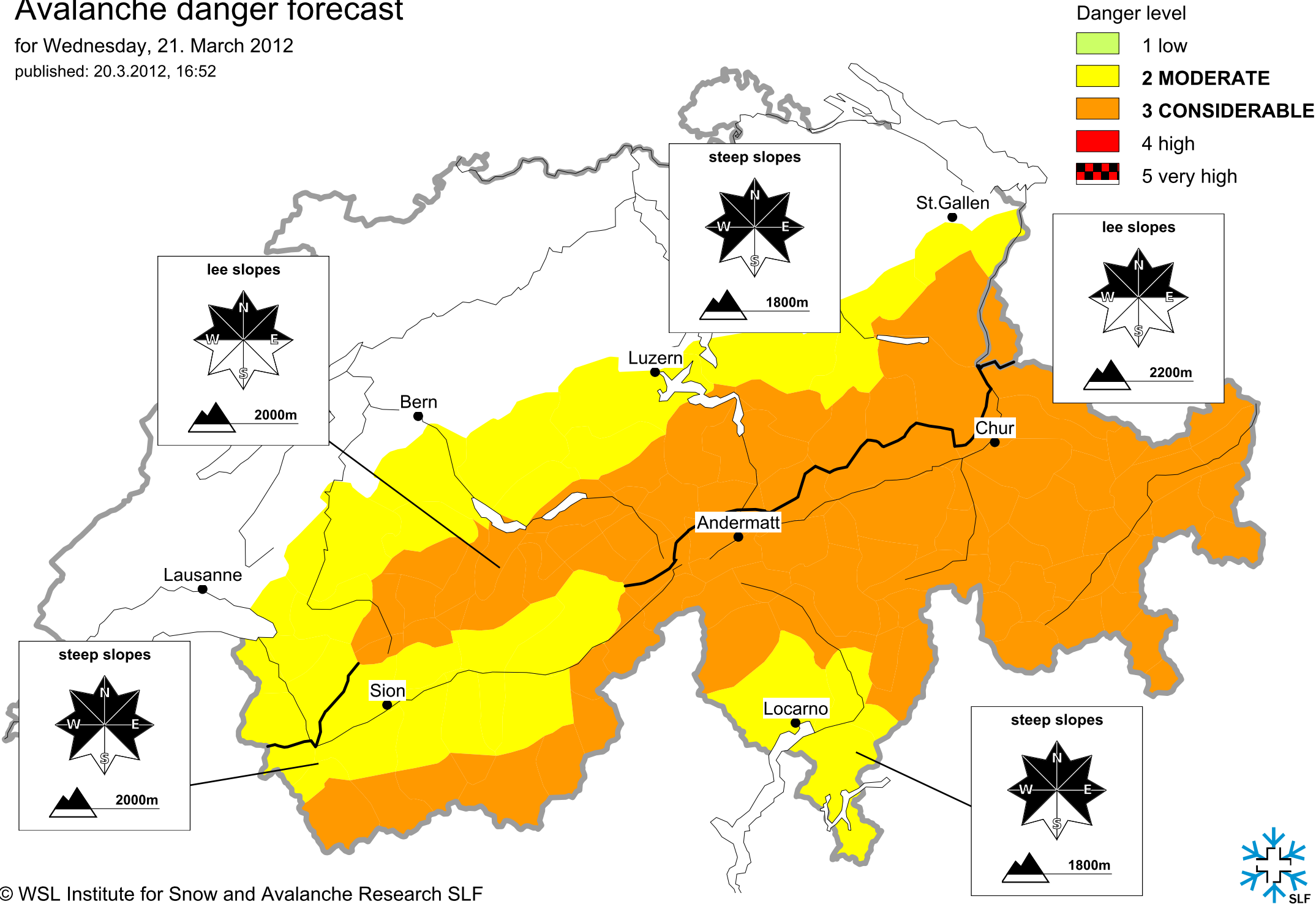
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# Avalanche danger forecast

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