

## National avalanche bulletin no. 126

for Friday, 30 March 2012

issue date 29.3.2012, 18:30 hours

*Generally favourable avalanche situation, caution urged towards fresh snowdrift*

### Current conditions

On Wednesday night, skies were clear. During the day on Thursday it was predominantly sunny. In northeastern regions, clouds swiftly moved in. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 4 degrees in northern regions and plus 9 degrees in southern regions. The wind was blowing at light to moderate velocity from northerly directions.

In places where the snow is shallow, the snowpack on northern slopes is faceted and weak to some extent. This is particularly the case in southern Valais and in Grisons. Elsewhere, the more deeply embedded layers of the snowpack have consolidated well for the most part and evidence hardly any pronounced weak layers. Only on steep, north facing slopes above approximately 2200 m is the snow on the uppermost surface loosely packed in places and capable of being transported. In general, the snow level on north facing slopes lies between 1000 and 1400 m, on south facing slopes it is between 1400 and 1800 m. On the southern flank of the Alps the snow levels are respectively about 200 m higher.

### Short-term development

On Thursday night, skies will be clear in southern regions, partly cloudy in western regions. In eastern regions it will be overcast and as much as 10 cm of snowfall is anticipated. The snowfall level will be approximately 1500 m. During the day on Friday the skies will rapidly clear up from the west. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 2 degrees in western regions, minus 1 degree in eastern regions and plus 5 degrees in southern regions. At high altitudes the wind in western regions will be blowing at moderate strength, in eastern and southern regions at strong velocity, from northerly directions. On north facing slopes at high altitudes, it is possible that small, trigger sensitive snowdrift accumulations will form.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Friday

Central Valais; Main Alpine Ridge from Grand Combin to Monte Rosa; northern Simplon region; southern Goms; northern and central Grisons south of Anterior Rhine; Engadine; Münstertal:

#### *Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes, particularly in northwestern to northern to northeastern aspects, above approximately 2200 m. In terrain which has been seldom used this winter, more than anywhere else, particularly in spots where the snow is shallow, avalanches can be triggered in more deeply embedded layers of the old snowpack. Isolated whumpfung sounds can be indicators of imminent danger. In addition, freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be evaluated with great care. On steep, north facing slopes a defensive route selection is recommended.

Regions north of the Rhine-Rhone line; regions of Trient, Grand St. Bernard, Saas Fee and southern Simplon; Urseren; Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa, Bergell, Val Poschiavo:

#### *Low avalanche danger (Level 1)*

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found on very steep, seldom trafficked, north facing slopes in particular. In those areas, especially the spots where the snow is shallow and freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be evaluated with great care. In exposed places, the hazards of being swept along and falling should be taken into consideration.

In all regions of the Swiss Alps, the danger of wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides is expected to increase to level 2, "moderate", over the course of the day. Naturally triggered avalanches are possible below about 2800 m on south facing slopes; and are possible below about 1800 m on north facing slopes. Backcountry skiing and freeriding tours should be brought to an end in plenty of time. Full depth snowslides can attain medium size and, although seldom, even release during the morning hours. Caution is urged beneath glide cracks in the snowpack.

### Trend for Saturday and Sunday

On Friday night, the skies will be clear. During the day on Saturday it will be predominantly sunny to start with. Then clouds are expected to move in from the north. On Sunday in eastern regions in particular, it will be only partly sunny and a small amount of precipitation is

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Send an SMS with the corresponding key word to the speed dial number 162.

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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

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possible. In western and southern regions, it will remain predominantly sunny. The wind will be blowing at moderate velocity from northerly directions. The avalanche situation is not expected to change significantly.

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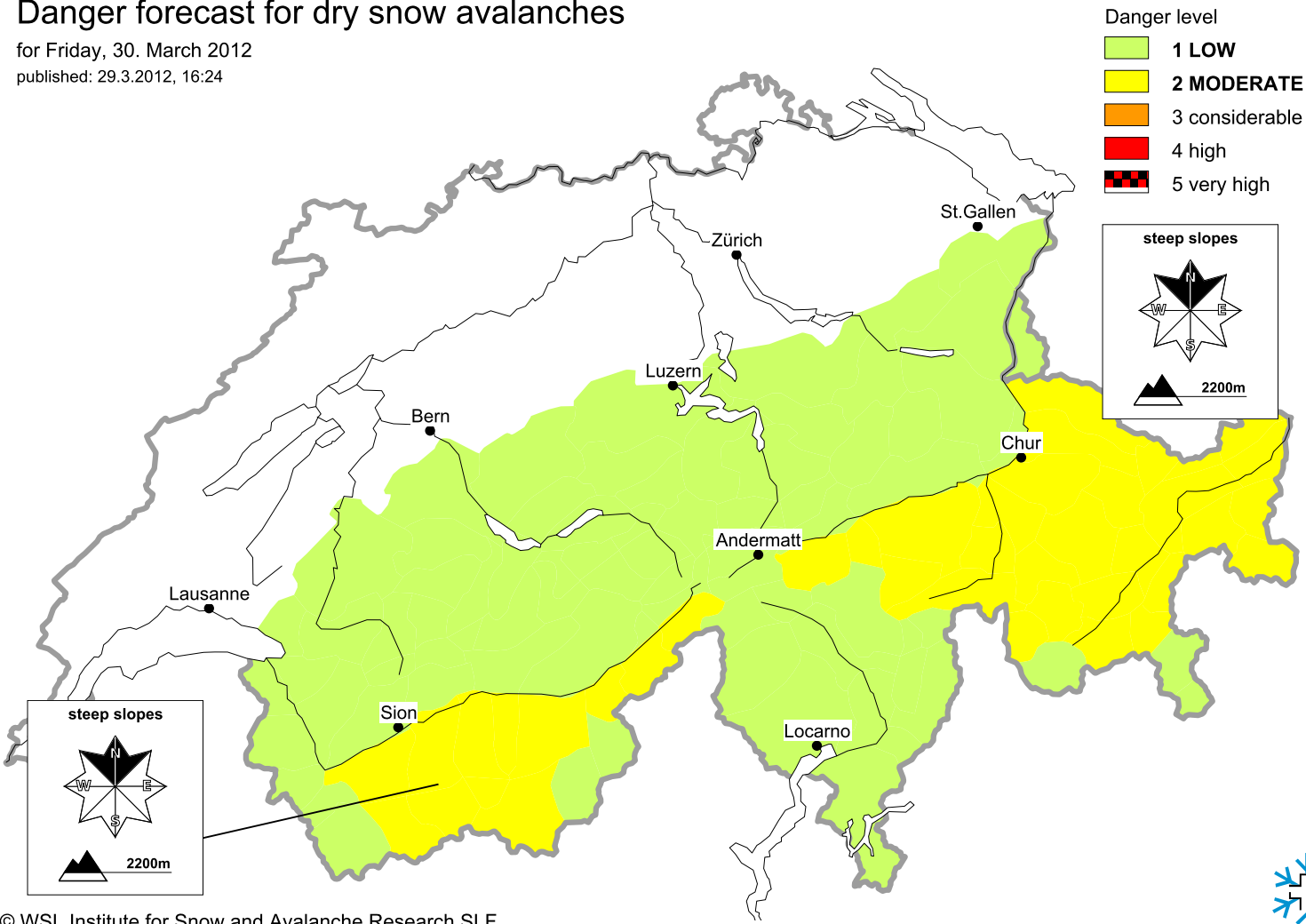
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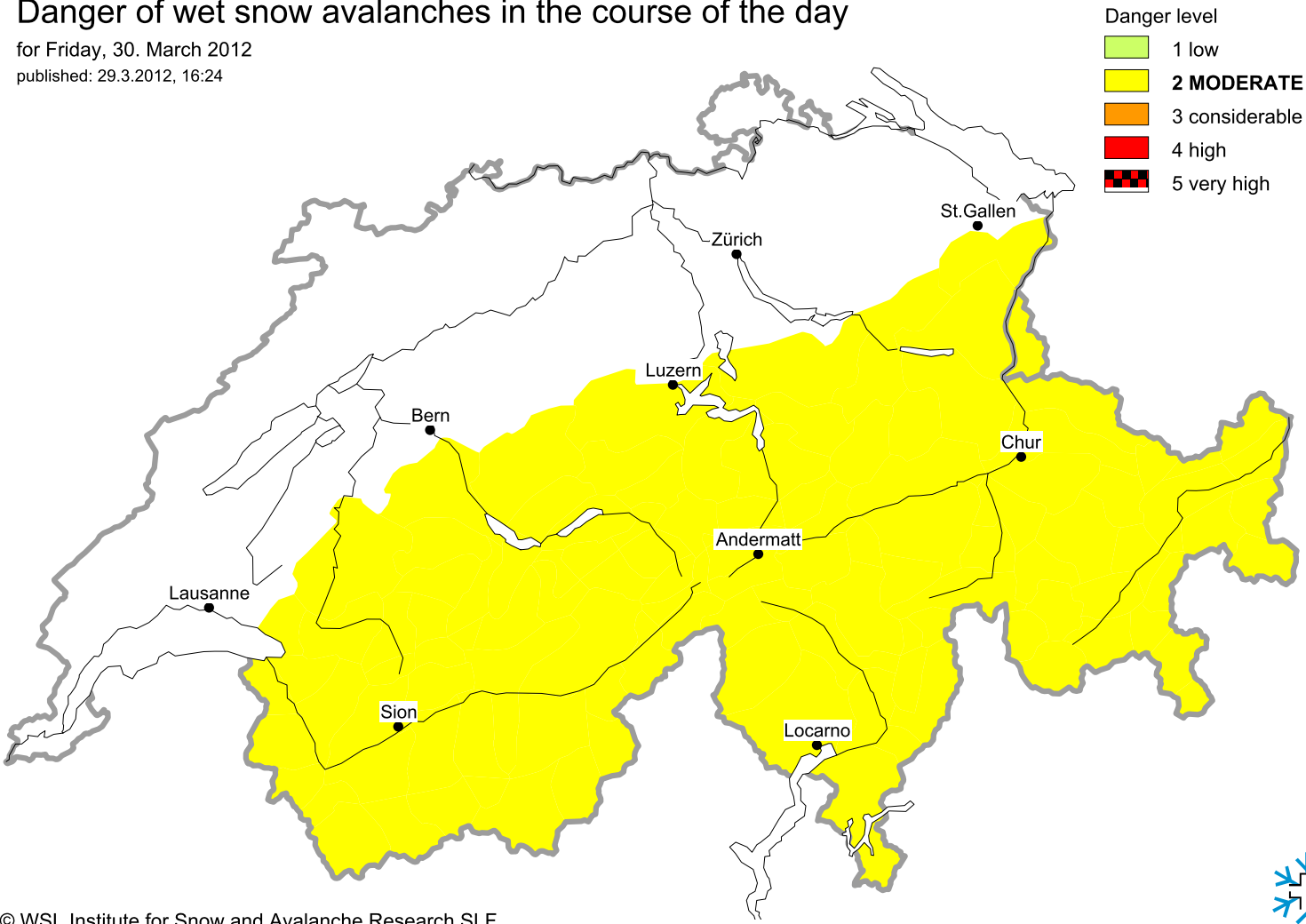
# Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Friday, 30. March 2012  
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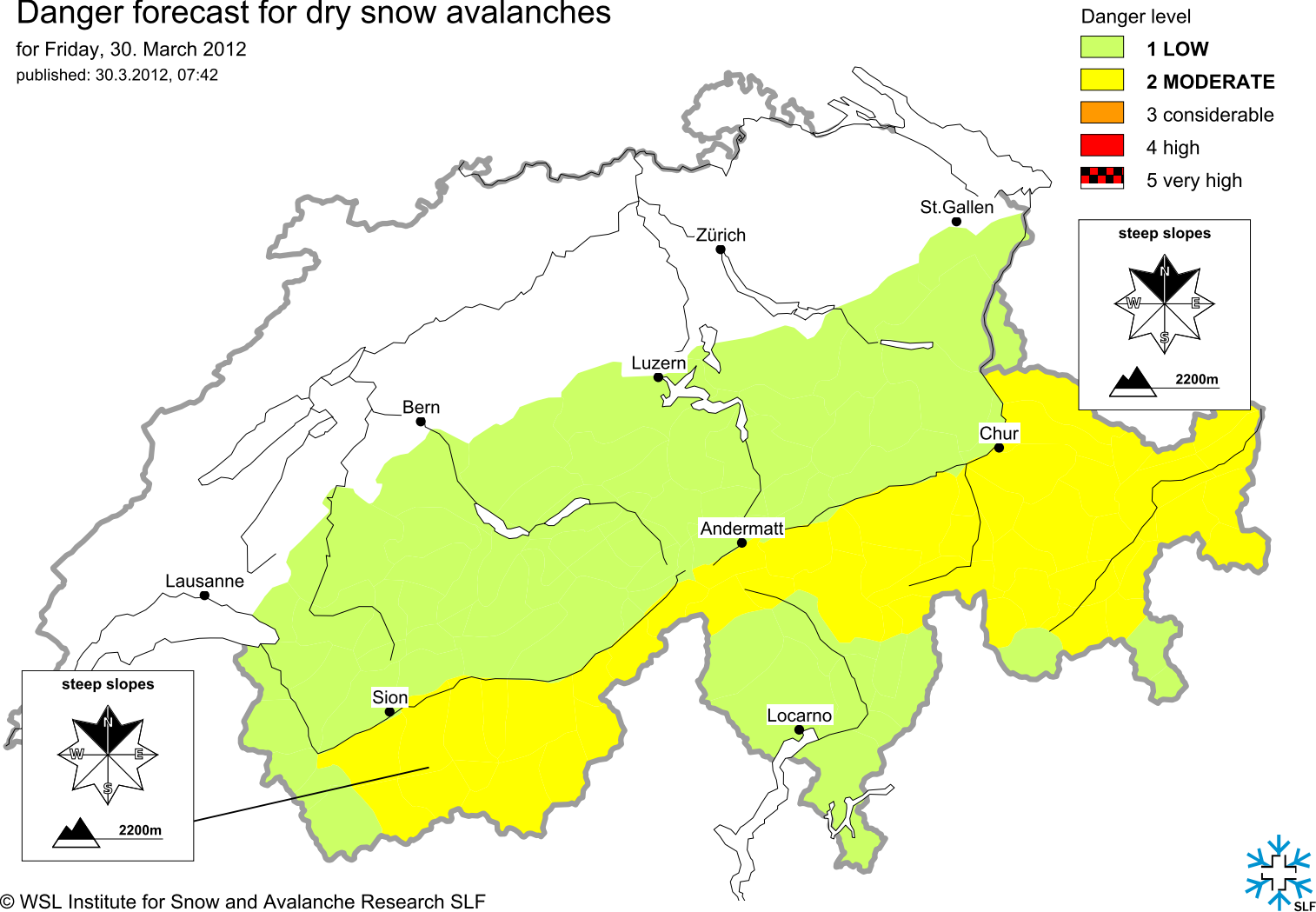
# Danger of wet snow avalanches in the course of the day

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# Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

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