

National avalanche bulletin no. 127

for Saturday, 31 March 2012

issue date 30.3.2012, 18:30 hours

Generally favourable avalanche situation

Current conditions

On Thursday night, the skies in the furthestmost western regions and in Ticino were clear, elsewhere they were predominantly overcast. During the day on Friday there was mostly sunshine in western and southern regions; in eastern regions it was overcast, and east of the Bernese Oberland there was a small amount of snowfall. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were plus 3 degrees in western regions, zero degrees in eastern regions and plus 7 degrees in southern regions. The northerly wind was blowing at strong velocity in the Upper Valais, on the Main Alpine Ridge and in Grisons; elsewhere winds blew at moderate strength.

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. 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 Friday night, skies will be clear, except for residual clouds in eastern regions. The snowpack surface is expected to freeze sufficiently in western and southern regions to form a crust capable of bearing loads; in eastern regions, the consolidation of the surface layers of the snowpack will be poorer, due to reduced outgoing radiation during the night. During the day on Saturday it will be predominantly sunny. Towards evening in eastern regions, clouds will move in. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be plus 3 degrees in western regions, plus 1 degree in eastern regions, and plus 5 degrees in southern regions. A strong northwesterly wind will be blowing at high altitudes in eastern and southern regions. In western regions, the northwesterly wind will be of light to moderate velocity.

Avalanche danger forecast for Saturday

Southern Upper Valais; southern Urseren; Bedretto; upper Leventina; Bleniotal; upper Val Moesa and Val Calanca; northern and central Grisons south of the 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. 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; Lower Valais; upper Maggia valleys; lower Leventina; central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri; southern Val Moesa and Val Calanca; 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 the 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 2000 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 night and during the morning hours. Caution is urged beneath glide cracks in the snowpack.

Trend for Sunday and Monday

On Sunday it will be overcast to begin with in eastern regions. Thereafter it will turn sunny, as it already was previously in western and southern regions. On Monday it will be predominantly sunny in northern regions, partly so in southern regions. The wind will be blowing generally at moderate strength, on Sunday from northwesterly, then on Monday from southwesterly directions. The avalanche situation is not expected to change significantly.

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)

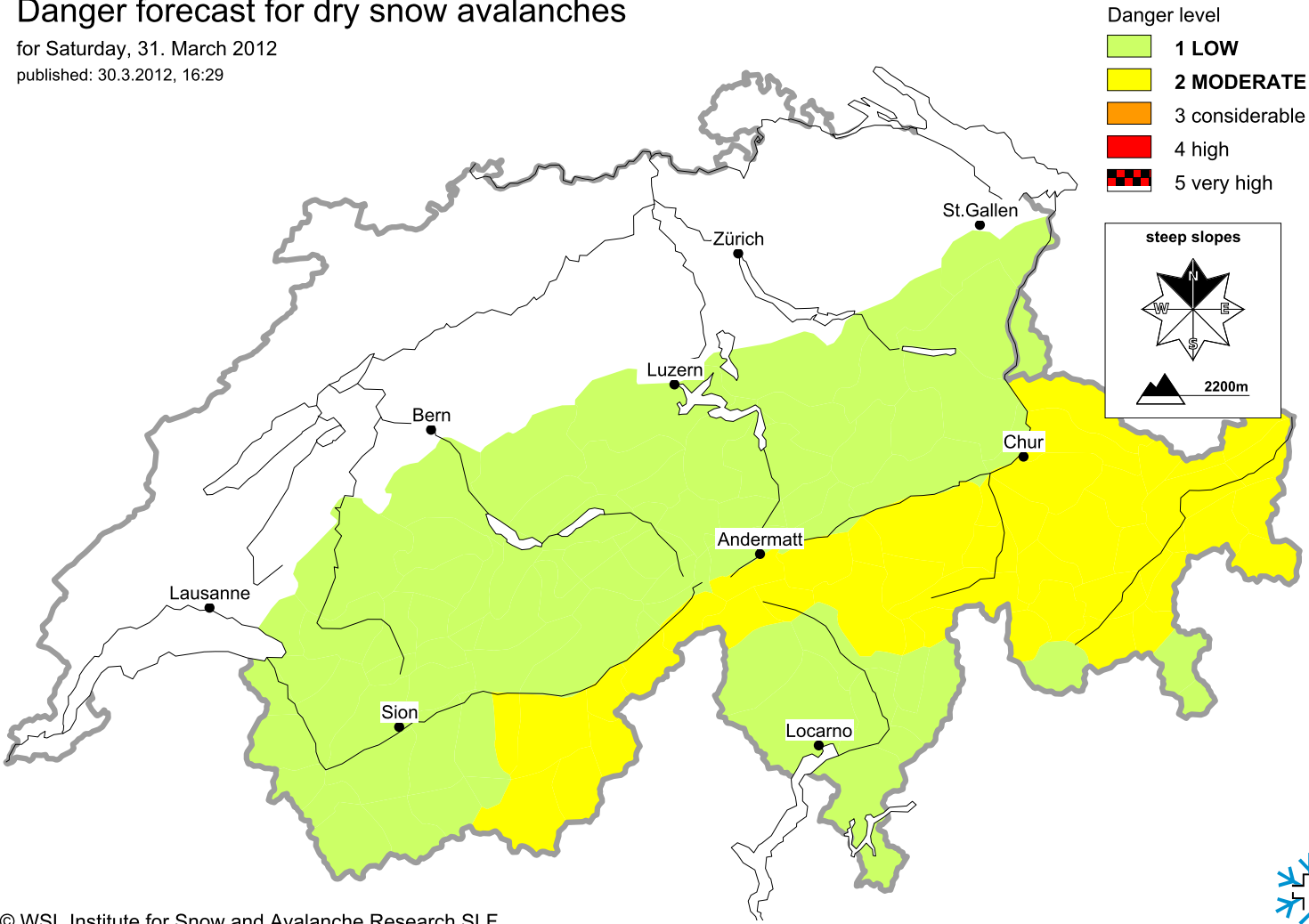
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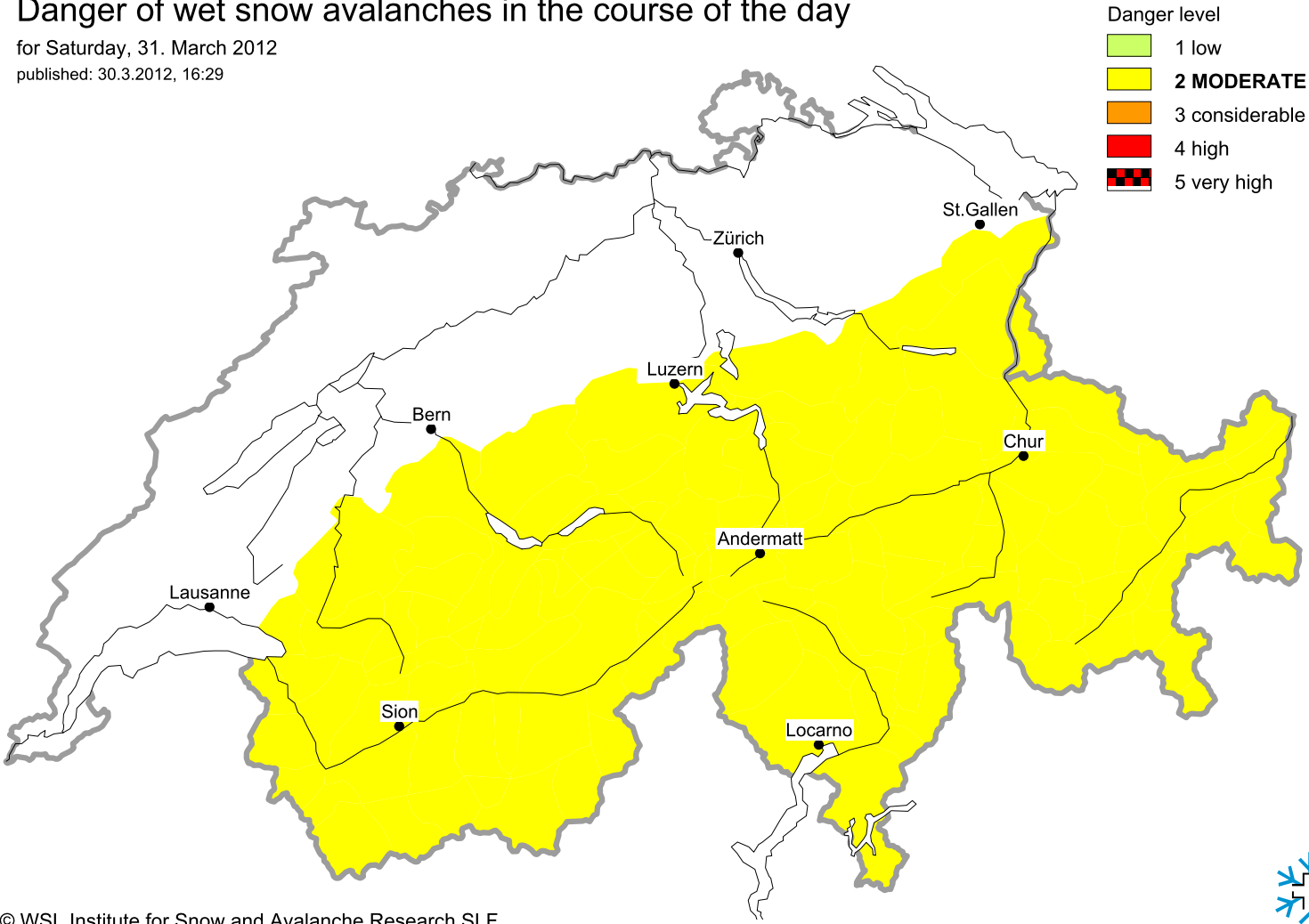
Danger forecast for dry snow avalanches

for Saturday, 31. March 2012
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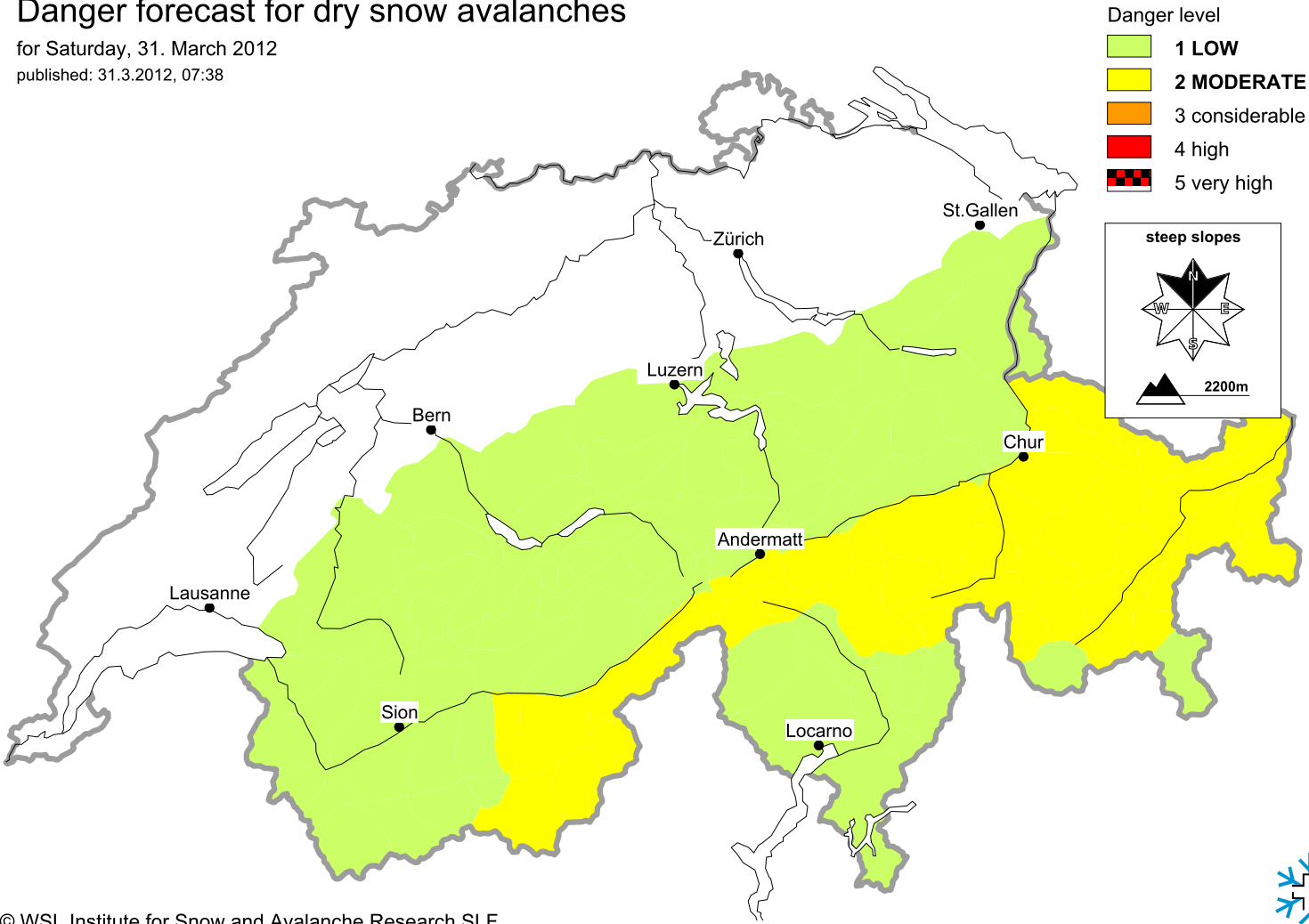
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