

# National avalanche bulletin no. 136

for Monday, 9 April 2012

issue date 8.4.2012, 18:30 hours

## *Avalanche danger is considerable widespread*

### Current conditions

On Saturday night, skies were overcast. During the day on Easter Sunday there were bright intervals in southern and western regions. The snowfall down to low lying areas slackened off, ultimately even in northeastern regions. Between Friday evening and Sunday evening on the northern flank of the Alps, there was 20 to 40 cm of snowfall, from place to place as much as 50 cm. In the Lower Valais, in northern Valais, on the Main Alpine Ridge of Ticino, in northern and central Grisons, as well as in the Lower Engadine, there was 10 to 20 cm of new fallen snow, elsewhere less. The midday temperature at 2000 m was minus 8 degrees. The wind at high altitude was blowing at moderate to strong velocity from northerly directions.

Both the size and the frequency of snowdrift accumulations increase with ascending altitude. These drifted masses are often prone to triggering. Particularly in southern Valais and in Grisons, the old snowpack is faceted and weak to some extent on northern slopes wherever the snow is relatively shallow.

### Short-term development

On Sunday night, skies will be predominantly clear. On the morning of Easter Monday in northern regions, clouds will swiftly move in. In southern regions it will be intermittently sunny. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees. The wind will shift to westerly and be blowing at light to moderate strength. In high alpine regions, a strong northwesterly wind will be blowing.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Easter Monday

Northern flank of the Alps from Les Diablerets to Liechtenstein; northern Valais; Trient; Main Alpine Ridge from Great St. Bernard to the Weissmies; Main Alpine Ridge of Ticino; northern and central Grisons; Lower Engadine; Münstertal:  
*Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)*

On the northern flank of the Alps from Les Diablerets to Liechtenstein, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2200 m. The snowdrift accumulations, which in some places are large sized, can be triggered even by a single backcountry skier or freerider. Experience in the evaluation of avalanche hazards is necessary.

In the remaining regions of this danger level, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects above approximately 2600 m. The major peril stems from freshly formed snowdrift accumulations. With ascending altitude, these tend to become larger and occur more frequently. A cautious route selection is essential.

Chablais; Vaud and Fribourg Alps; central Valais; Simplon region; southern Goms; upper Maggia valleys; lower Leventina; Upper Engadine; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; Bergell; Val Poschiavo:

*Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)*

The avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all aspects. In Chablais and in the Vaud and Fribourg Alps, the danger zones are above approximately 2000 m; in the remaining regions of this danger level they are above approximately 2400 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be assessed with particular caution. They can be easily triggered in some places, but are generally small sized. In high alpine regions, the avalanche prone locations occur more frequently. A prudent route selection is imperative.

Central Ticino; Sotto Ceneri:

*Low avalanche danger (Level 1)*

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily in areas adjacent to the summits where there are freshly formed, small sized snowdrift accumulations. In exposed terrain, 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 is expected to increase during the course of the day. Due to solar radiation and the daytime warming cycle, moist, loosely packed snow avalanches can be expected from the fresh fallen snow up to high altitudes. In addition, at intermediate altitudes more than anywhere else, isolated wet snow avalanches and full depth snowslides which entrain the entire snowpack are possible.

### Trend for Tuesday and Wednesday

On Tuesday it will be quite sunny in the foehn-exposed regions, increasingly overcast in western and southern regions. On Wednesday, snowfall is anticipated above approximately 1500 m. The hazards of dry avalanches are expected to diminish on Tuesday, then escalate significantly on Wednesday. The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase due to foehn winds and rainfall.

#### 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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#### 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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# Avalanche danger forecast

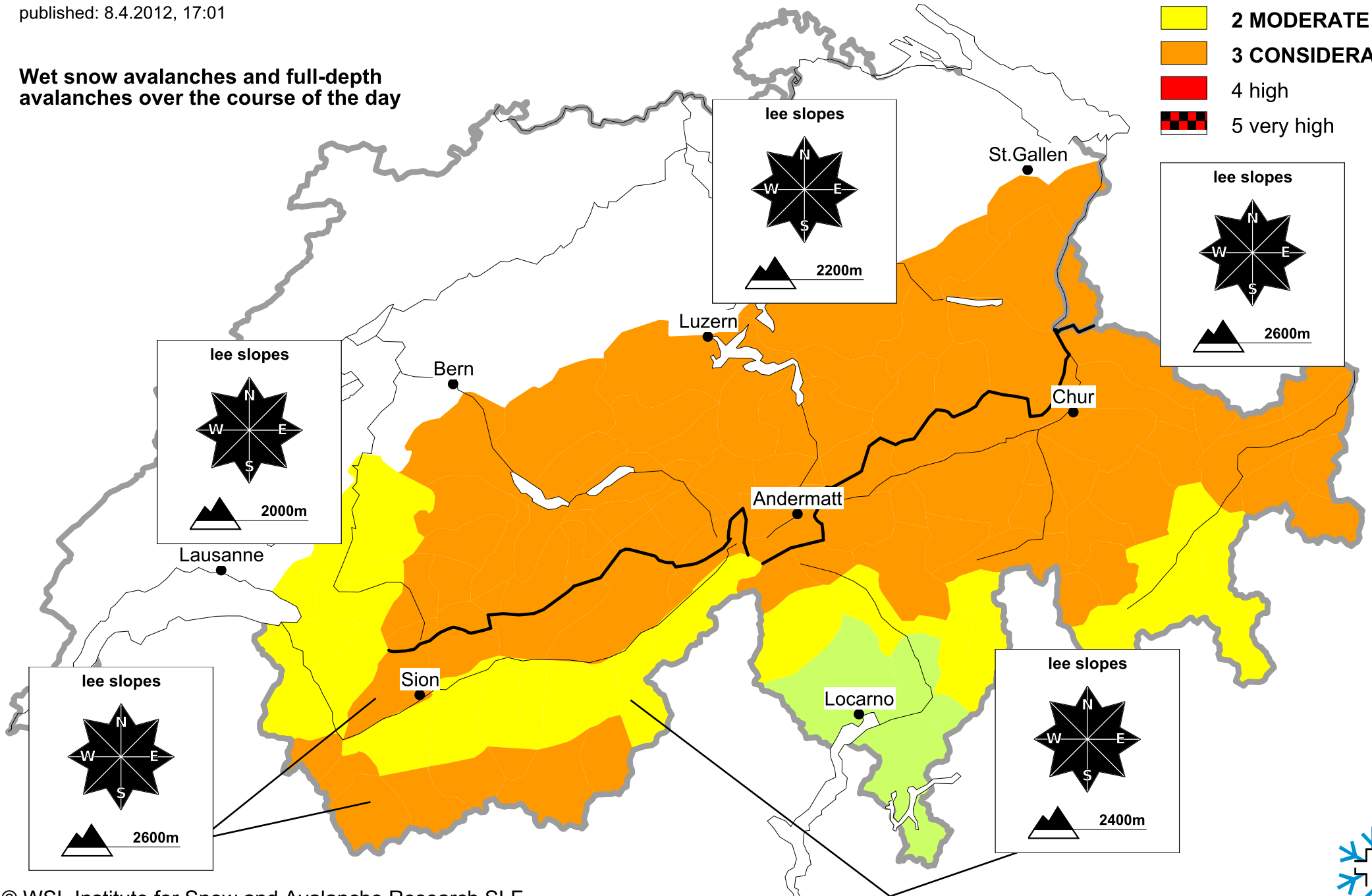
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**Wet snow avalanches and full-depth avalanches over the course of the day**

Danger level

-  1 LOW
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 CONSIDERABLE
-  4 high
-  5 very high








# Avalanche danger forecast

for Monday, 9. April 2012

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**Wet snow avalanches and full-depth avalanches over the course of the day**

Danger level

-  1 LOW
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 CONSIDERABLE
-  4 high
-  5 very high

