Northern Cairngorms - Issued 28/02/2015

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 28/02/2015 TO 18:00HRS Sun 01/03/2015



Hazard Level	Avalanche Probabilty
Very High	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. Numerous very large, often extremely large natural avalanches can be expected.
High	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. In some cases, numerous large, often very large sized natural avalanches can be expected.
Considerable	Natural and human triggered avalanches possible, in some cases large, in isolated cases very large sized natural avalanches are possible.
Moderate	Very large sized natural avalanches are unlikely. Human triggering possible in indicated steep places.
Low	Only small and medium sized natural avalanches are possible. Human triggering possible in steep, extreme terrain.

Forecast Weather Influences

Heavy snowfall overnight will turn to rain and sleet over the summits briefly as the freezing level rises to above the tops. During the early part of the morning the freezing level will lower to 500 metres with snow showers for the rest of the period. Strong Southerly winds will veer West-South-Westerly.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

At first new windslab will develop on North-West to North-East aspects above 900 metres. This will become very unstable in areas of steep terrain during the temperature rise before consolidating in the cooler temperatures. Windslab will then develop on North-East to South-East aspects above 900 metres especially around corrie rims and gully tops. Localised windslab will develop on other aspects due to cross loading. Cornices will be unstable. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 28/02/2015

Observed Weather Influences

A day of light snow showers on strong West-South-Westerly winds. The freezing level lowered to around 1000 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Some consolidation has taken place within the snowpack. New accumulations of moderately bonded windslab have developed on Northerly to Easterly aspects mainly above 1000 metres. Elsewhere the snowpack is generally well bonded and stable. The avalanche hazard is Moderate

Mountain Conditions		
Observed Mountain Travel Conditions	Soft thawing snow below 900m, Clear below 1000m with poorer visibility during snow showers. Winds 20 -30 mph progress difficult at times with stronger gusts	
Comments	A brief thaw to summit levels in the first part of the evening leading to a period of poor stability and cornice collapse.	