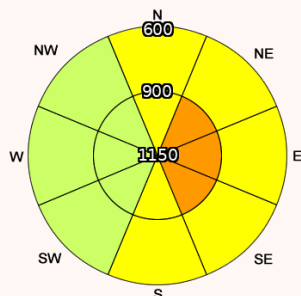


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 17/02/2022

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Thu 17/02/2022 TO 18:00HRS Fri 18/02/2022



Hazard Level	Avalanche Probability
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

A mainly dry night followed by moderate snowfall to glen level throughout the day. Gale force Westerly winds easing overnight to moderate Southerly. Fresh Easterly winds by morning, backing and strengthening to become strong Northerly, then North-Westerly by the end of the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Moderately to weakly bonded windslab will be found in wind sheltered locations on mainly North-East to South-East aspects above 900 metres with fragile cornices present. Below this altitude and on North and South aspects, areas of moderately bonded windslab will be encountered. These will be deepest in any wind sheltered features. Cover will improve on other aspects but will not become significant. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Thu 17/02/2022

Observed Weather Influences

Overnight snowfall above 600 metres. Light, intermittent snow showers during the morning with more frequent, heavier snow showers to glen level during the afternoon. Gale to storm force Westerly winds.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Snowfall and persistent drifting have rapidly formed unstable windslab on mainly North-East to South-East aspects. Greatest amounts are present in wind sheltered locations above 1000 metres but accumulations are starting to gain depth below this altitude and above 700 metres. Multiple small cornice collapses were noted on North and North-East aspects at 1000m. Moderately bonded accumulations are also present on North aspects above 900 metres. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Deep drifts, breakable crust, icy paths and hillsides all encountered. Clear in the morning with poor visibility in clouds and snow afternoon. Winds approx 50 - 60 mph, progress very difficult with potential to be taken off feet.

Comments

A complicated stability map developing: Wind scoured locations offering safer travel options at present.