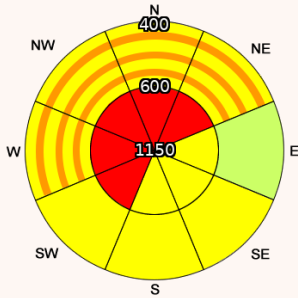


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 14/01/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Thu 14/01/2010 TO 18:00HRS Fri 15/01/2010



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

It will be a mainly dry night with persistent sleet and snow arriving at dawn. Freezing levels will lower at first but then rise dramatically. There will be strong Southerly winds backing to South-Easterly tomorrow.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The rise in temperature will have dramatic effects in the fragile and complex snowpack above 600 meters on South-West through North-West to North-East aspects where avalanches will occur. Cornices on all aspects will be prone to collapse. The avalanche hazard will be High.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Thu 14/01/2010

Observed Weather Influences

The strong South-Easterly winds eased during the day. Temperatures warmed in the valley but remained cold on the tops with only light precipitation.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

New wind slab developed on South-West through to Northerly aspects, with some consolidation in the snowpack at lower altitudes. Field tests on a North-Westerly aspect above 850 meters gave very easy, multiple shears in the snowpack. The avalanche hazard is High.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Some scoured areas revealing bare and icy patches. Deep cover remains in many places.

Comments

We are in a prolonged period of instability and it is not over yet!