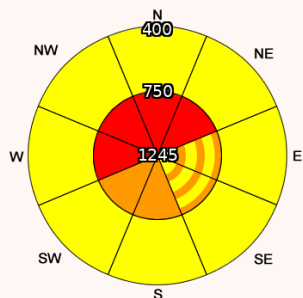


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 15/01/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 15/01/2010 TO 18:00HRS Sat 16/01/2010



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

Overnight on Friday night there will be heavy rain with a freezing level of 1500 metres. This will be followed by sleet as the freezing level falls to 1100 metres during Saturday. The winds will be strong and from the South.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

During the temperature rise there will be a period of high snowpack instabilities. Avalanches will occur on West through North to North-East aspects above 750 metres. New windslab accumulations will develop on North-West to North-East aspects above 900 metres. The avalanche hazard will be High.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 15/01/2010

Observed Weather Influences

There has been strong Southerly winds with light snow above 750 metres. The freezing level was around 800 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Heavy drifting has taken place from around 500 metres. Windslab has accumulated in sheltered locations on West through North to North-East aspects above 500 metres. Large parallel cracks were noted on a North-West slope at 570 metres. During tests there were several failures within the snowpack on a North-West aspect at 800 metres. The avalanche hazard is High.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Wind scoured on exposed slopes, otherwise snow cover generally excellent.

Comments

Highest period of instability expected during temperature rise.