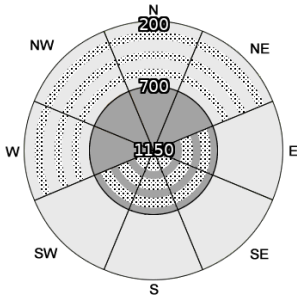


**Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 15/01/2010 TO 18:00HRS Sat 16/01/2010**



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

**Forecast Weather Influences**

Mild overnight with heavy rain, becoming cooler later on Saturday with wet snow or sleet above 900 metres. Freezing level falling through Saturday with scattered mostly light snow showers on higher slopes. Wind Southerly gale overnight Southerly strong on Saturday.

**Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

Heavy rain overnight will give a period of high instability in sheltered gullies and on steeper slopes. Stability of the older snowpack will start to improve through the day as cooler conditions return. Light snow showers will form localised areas of unstable windslab in sheltered summit gullies and on steep scarp slopes with a North-West to North-Easterly aspect mainly above 700 metres. Avalanches are likely particularly during the heavy thaw period. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

**Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 15/01/2010**

**Observed Weather Influences**

Milder conditions are now starting to affect the area.

**Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

There are areas of moderate to weakly bonded snow in the most sheltered of gullies and also on steep scarp slopes with a West through North to Easterly aspect mainly above 850 metres. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

**Mountain Conditions**

**Observed Mountain Travel Conditions**

Snow above 300 metres on Friday but subject to change with heavy rain forecast.

**Comments**

Wet snow instabilities will exist in many sheltered gullies and steeper slopes where avalanches are likely. Hazard of falling rocks and ice.