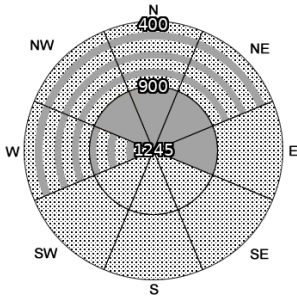


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 16/01/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 16/01/2010 TO 18:00HRS Sun 17/01/2010



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

The freezing level will remain below the summit and no precipitation is expected with moderate South veering South-West winds.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Weakly bonded windslab accumulations will lie in sheltered locations on North-West through North to Easterly aspects above 900 metres. Corrie rims and gully exits will be particularly affected. Old snow pack instabilities will continue to affect West through North to North-East facing slopes. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 16/01/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Summit temperatures rose briefly to zero during the night before falling again to around minus 3. There has been heavy rain at lower levels with snow above 800 metres. Very strong Southerly winds eased as the day progressed.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Due to the brief rise and fall in temperatures the snowpack is beginning to stabilise. New windslab accumulations have developed in sheltered locations on Westerly through North to North-East aspects above 900 metres. Old snowpack weaknesses are still present on these aspects. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Thawing at lower altitudes, cover still generally good apart from on wind exposed slopes.

Comments

Very wild and stormy conditions on the hill today.