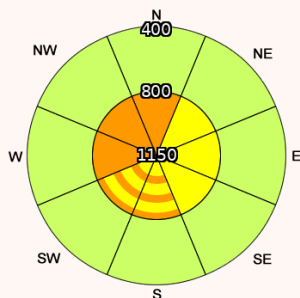


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 22/01/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 22/01/2010 TO 18:00HRS Sat 23/01/2010



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

Snow showers and light to moderate North-Easterly winds are forecast. Freezing level will be around 1000 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Avalanches are likely on West to North aspects - especially on steep slopes and gully exits on these aspects. . Localised windslab deposits will be present on South and South-West aspects with the shift in wind direction. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 22/01/2010

Observed Weather Influences

A storm last night brought moist new snow and drifting snow could be observed above 800m. During the day there was high cloud with sunny breaks. Maximum summit temperatures in the area reached -0.4C.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

A large cornice-triggered avalanche was observed today at 1050 metres on a North West aspect, which was 100 metres wide, 250 metres long and an average of 45 cm thick. The failure plane was a softer layer just below a rain crust which formed last Sunday. Also, debris from a natural avalanche was observed that ran on a similar slope during the storm last night. The avalanche hazard is High.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Good snow cover above 600 metres. Watch out for patches of ice.

Comments

Today's observed avalanche showed that the snowpack has the potential to slide. Wise mountaineers will take this into consideration when making their route selection.