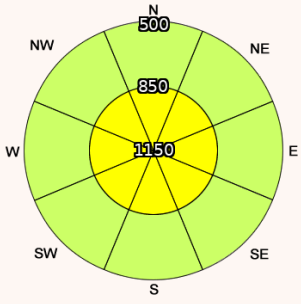
Southern Cairngorms - Issued 16/02/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Tue 16/02/2010 TO 18:00HRS Wed 17/02/2010



Hazard Level	Avalanche Probabilty
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

Winds will remain light from the South-East backing to East with no precipitation forecast for the south Cairngorms. Temperatures will remain cold.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Isolated areas of instability will persist on all aspects above 850 metres. This will be confined to steep, convex unsupported terrain, corrie rims and gully exits. The avalanche hazard will be Moderate

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Tue 16/02/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Periods of snow in some areas deposited up to 5cm, with no snow in other parts of the south Cairngorms. Temperatures went well below freezing at all elevations with light variable direction winds.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

A widespread layer of surface hoar was observed above 900 meters on all aspects. Field tests showed instability due to a softer layer below a crust. The distribution of this instability is quite isolated but can be found on all aspects above 850 metres. The avalanche hazard is Moderate

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions	Soft snow on a firm base..
Comments	If buried the surface hoar layer observed today could be a very weak zone in the snowpack.