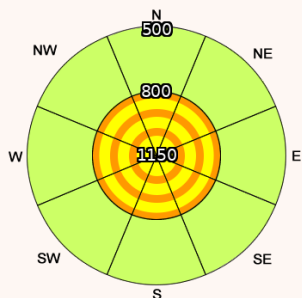


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 20/02/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 20/02/2010 TO 18:00HRS Sun 21/02/2010



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 weather is forecast to continue cold with light South-West winds and no precipitation.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Buried surface hoar under a weakly bonded slab is distributed unevenly across nearly all aspects above 800 metres. Surface hoar growth continues on the surface in many locations and is likely to produce loose snow avalanches on very steep terrain, specially on South aspects. Facet growth is producing further weakness in the snowpack. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 20/02/2010

Observed Weather Influences

It was clear, cold and a nearly calm day with very light variable direction winds.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Surface hoar on the surface is widespread. In some locations and variable aspects above 800 metres the surface hoar has been buried under a weakly bonded slab. There is also significant facet growth noted in the cold snowpack. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Perfect ski tour conditions but be aware of changes in the cold snowpack under the skis.

Comments

The cold temperatures are developing some very worrying conditions in the snowpack. At this time they are not heavily loaded but still require careful consideration for route finding around the weak zones.