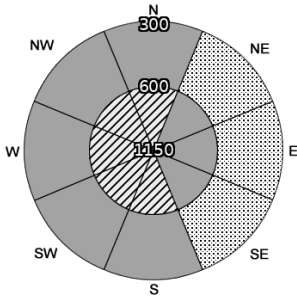


Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Thu 25/02/2010 TO 18:00HRS Fri 26/02/2010



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

Snow showers will continue overnight and through the day. Strong winds will be from the East with a freezing level of around 300 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

More windslab will be deposited on the already extensive accumulations on mainly South through West to North aspects above 600 metres. In many locations this windslab will be particularly unstable due to a layer of buried surface hoar crystals. Avalanches will occur where the windslab accumulates, even on quite modestly angled terrain. The avalanche hazard will be High.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Thu 25/02/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Heavy snow fell overnight and through the day. The freezing level was around 400 metres. Strong winds were from the North-East.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Significant quantities of fresh windslab have accumulated above 500 metres. Although most extensive on South to West aspects, pockets of slab were noted on many other aspects. In many locations this windslab is lying on top of a very weak layer of buried surface hoar crystals. This combination is very unstable, with even moderately angled slopes showed signs of instability. The avalanche hazard is High.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Large quantities of fresh snow above 200 metres, higher ridges blown clear.

Comments

The most hazardous avalanche conditions for some time. Care required until the snowpack consolidates. There is no sign of this happening for a good few days yet.