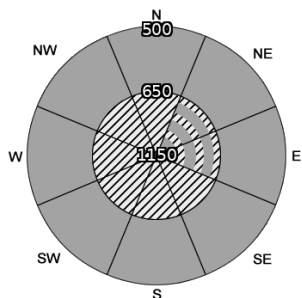


Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 26/02/2010 TO 18:00HRS Sat 27/02/2010



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

Further snow is forecast through tonight easing off during Saturday. Winds will veer from North-East to East remaining strong while the freezing level will only go as high as 450 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Avalanches are likely on nearly all aspects and elevations above 650 metres. The weakly bonded wind slab is increasingly dense, particularly the near surface 20-40 centimetres. Although snowpack temperatures have warmed the facets and buried surface hoar are still evident. The avalanche hazard will be High

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 26/02/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Around 20 centimetres of new snow fell bringing the total amount of snowfall in this storm to over a metre. Winds strong to gale force winds North-Easterly. Temperatures remained around -4C on the summits and stayed around freezing in the glens.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Very heavy drifting was observed at all levels, building unstable windslab at all elevations on mainly South-East through West to North aspects. Easy cornice failure was triggered by skis and extensive whomping was noted. The avalanche hazard is High.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

New and drifting snow at all elevations

Comments

Nearly appropriate to be mindful of the expression used by heliskiers in some terrain when avalanche hazard is high - "Nobody moves, nobody gets hurt" attributed to Al Capone. See today blog for indicators of instability.