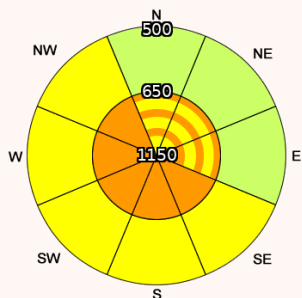


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 28/02/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sun 28/02/2010 TO 18:00HRS Mon 01/03/2010



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

Winds will back from North to North-West, still moderate to strong. Temperatures will remain cold. There will be clearer skies and very isolated wintry snow showers.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Up to two metre deep weakly bonded wind slab will continue to exist from South-East through West to North-West aspects above 650 metres where avalanches are likely. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sun 28/02/2010

Observed Weather Influences

There were a few wintry showers with strong Northerly winds. Temperatures at 1000m were -5 degrees at mid-day, slightly above freezing in the glen. There were some clear sky breaks in the late morning and afternoon.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The frequency of the avalanche cycle has slowed although avalanche debris was noted on West and South-West aspects starting from 750 to 800m. Very weak zones still exist, with additional drifting and slab formation on South-East through West aspects above 650 metres. The avalanche hazard is High.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Poorly bonded wind slab, scoured zones, big drifts, sastrugi all exist. A few islands of heather and rock.

Comments

Local knowledge says that some of the avalanches observed have not been seen to twenty years. Clearing skies and beautiful winter mountains hide some potentially nasty avalanche surprises out there just now. Avalanches will occur due to additional load of a climber or skier in these weak zones.