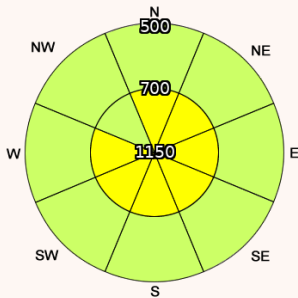


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 12/03/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 12/03/2010 TO 18:00HRS Sat 13/03/2010



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 strengthen up to 35mph from the North-west. There is no precipitation forecast except possibly for very occasional snow showers above 700 metre.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

There will be patchy distribution of new slab on Southerly aspects. This new snow windslab is quite well bonded to the old surface, except where it has formed weak cornices on Southerly aspects above 850 metres. The avalanche hazard will be Moderate.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 12/03/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Fresh North-north-west winds and some snow showers above about 650 metres were the main features of the day. Temperatures were in the -2 degree range at 900 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The snow showers have resulted in some patchy distribution of new wind slab on Southerly aspects above 650 metres. Given the temperature regime and nature of the old snow surface, this wind slab (up to 7 centimetres thick where sampled) has bonded reasonably well. The deeper snowpack is strong. Weak characteristics persist but are neither adequately loaded nor warm enough to pose a concern. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Off piste, moist to mush zone below 600 metres, firm snow surface above 700 metres-transition in between. Note: piste skiing starts at 600 and above.

Comments

Cold feeling with the wind chill. More extensive tough crust on windward aspects.