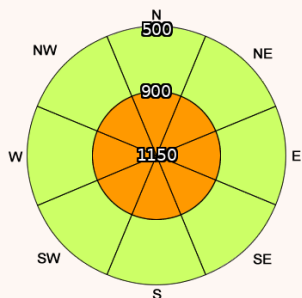


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 16/03/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Tue 16/03/2010 TO 18:00HRS Wed 17/03/2010



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

A band of precipitation will bring moderate amounts of sleet and rain to the hills overnight and into tomorrow morning. By mid morning this should clear, leaving a dry afternoon with some sunny spells. Winds will be strong from the South-West and freezing levels will rise to 1200 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The rain and warm temperatures will destabilize the upper layers of the snowpack. Wet avalanches are likely on all aspects above 900 metres. With soft layers of snow still remaining in the snowpack, there is a small but real chance of a deeper slab avalanche. At lower elevations, the well consolidated snowpack will be stable. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Tue 16/03/2010

Observed Weather Influences

It has been mostly cloudy with little pockets of occasional sunshine. There was some very light precipitation falling as snow near the summits. Freezing level was around 1000 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The continued slow thaw has further consolidated the snowpack, which is generally well bonded and stable. Large cornices remain around corrie rims - these also appear stable at present. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Bare patches just starting to affect travel, but really, there's still lots of snow

Comments

This is the smaller of two storms affecting the region this week and by mid morning things should have mostly calmed down. The storm forecast for Thursday looks as though it has a lot more punch.