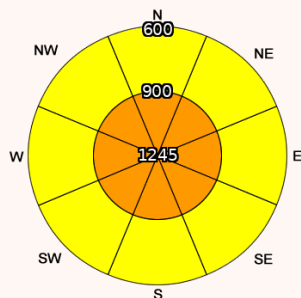


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 17/03/2010

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



| 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

Rain at all levels is expected overnight and during the day. Winds will be strong South-Westerly. The freezing level will be at 1900 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The snowpack will thaw rapidly and will become saturated. Surface and deeper instabilities are likely to produce wet avalanches on all steep aspects mainly above 900 metres. Cornices will collapse. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 17/03/2010

Observed Weather Influences

It has been a dry clear and sunny day with warm temperatures at all levels and a strong Westerly wind.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The snowpack is moist but is generally stable on all aspects and levels. Some surface instability was noted on very steep slopes on mainly East to South aspects due to warming of the surface layers by the sun. The avalanche hazard is Low.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Good cover remains above 500 m but wet deep snow.

Comments

Very strong winds and thawing conditions ahead.