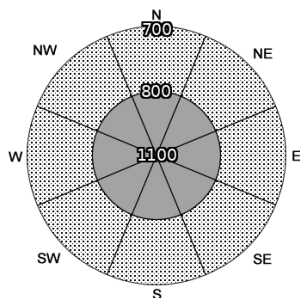


Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Wed 17/03/2010 TO 18:00HRS Thu 18/03/2010



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

Heavy, persistent rainfall with strong South-West winds. Freezing level 1900m.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The snowpack will be weakly stabilised in many places above 800m. Deep seated weaknesses present on some South-West through West to North-West aspects may fail and trigger wet slab avalanches. Surface instability expected to be widespread on most other steep aspects. All cornices will become very weak and prone to spontaneous collapse in wet and mild conditions. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable with avalanches likely.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 17/03/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Period of heavy sleety snow overnight and during the early morning with rain at lower levels. Drier, warmer later with strong South-West winds throughout.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

New wet snow instability noted high on many North to East aspects above 900m. Fresh avalanche debris noted on and below several steep Easterly aspects; cornice debris also present beneath some East to South aspects. The surface layers of the snowpack are now wet and thawing at all altitudes. Drier conditions brought a little marginal consolidation on South-West to North aspects. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Very good, nearly complete cover above 800m with good if patchy cover down to 700m.

Comments

Glass definitely half-empty. Severe snow loss in prospect. Falling ice and rocks additional potential hazards over the next few days.