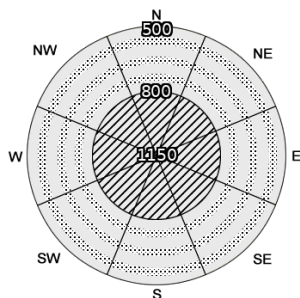


Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Wed 17/03/2010 TO 18:00HRS Thu 18/03/2010



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 is forecast for Thursday, starting out light, becoming heavy in the afternoon. Warm temperatures with freezing levels at 1900 metres. Winds will be strong from the South-West.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The warm temperatures and rain will make the upper layers of the snowpack unstable on steep slopes of all aspect above around 800 metres, where avalanches will occur. Cornices around corrie rims will be prone to collapse. Lower down, very isolated areas, such as steep gully sides, may see some localised sluffing. However, the snowpack is generally consolidated and stable at lower elevations. The avalanche hazard will be High.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 17/03/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Early rain tapered out by mid morning and gave way to a bright but blustery day. Summit temperatures rose to around 3C. Winds were from the South-West.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Wet loose avalanches were observed on steep terrain on a variety of aspects above 900 metres. Lower down, the rain-soaked snowpack is fully consolidated and stable. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Melting rapidly at lower elevations, but skiing still possible from 500 metres.

Comments

This is really the first big thaw of the season and Thursday is shaping up to be a rather gnarley day on the hill. The additional moisture being added to the snowpack will promote glide, either on layers within the snowpack or on the ground. This means that deep or full depth avalanches are probable on steep terrain.