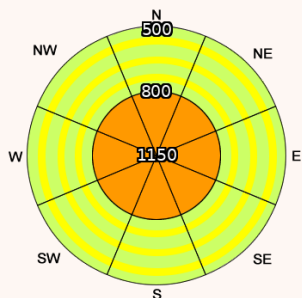


Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Thu 18/03/2010 TO 18:00HRS Fri 19/03/2010



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

Sleet and snow showers will be accompanied by gale to storm force South-Westerly winds. Summit temperatures will remain around +3 degrees centigrade.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Due to continued warm temperatures and some new precipitation, avalanches are likely on steep slopes of all aspect mainly above 800 metres. Cornices are weak and will be prone to collapse. Below 800 metres the snowpack is mostly stable, although isolated areas, such as steep gully sides may be prone to collapse. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Thu 18/03/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Occasional showers, sometimes heavy, with gale force South to South-Westerly winds. Temperatures were around +3 degrees centigrade on the summits.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

On steep slopes of all aspect above around 800 metres the upper layers of the snowpack are weak. At lower levels the snowpack is mostly stable, although steep gully walls and snow bridges across burns were observed to have collapsed in many places. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Melting rapidly at lower elevations, still good coverage higher up.

Comments

High up there are extreme winds as well as rock and ice fall to contend with. Lower down, burns are full and snow bridges are weak and prone to collapse.