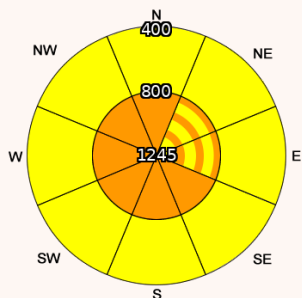


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 19/12/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sun 19/12/2010 TO 18:00HRS Mon 20/12/2010



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

Very cold temperatures will continue and snow showers overnight will become lighter during the day. Winds will be light North-East backing North-West.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The very cold snowpack will continue to demonstrate poor stability in places. South-East through West to Northerly aspects above 800 metres will be particularly affected especially in areas of steep terrain, crag aprons, and gully tops. Elsewhere there will be localised instabilities. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sun 19/12/2010

Observed Weather Influences

Very cold temperatures have continued with occasional light snow showers on moderate Easterly winds.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Drifting has taken place and further accumulations of weakly bonded windslab have developed mainly on Westerly to Northerly aspects above 800 metres. Corrie rims, gully tops and crag aprons are particularly affected. Instabilities remain on most other aspects especially in steep, sheltered terrain. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Good cover at all levels, hard and icy on wind exposed slopes.

Comments

Careful footwork needed on some steep slopes as exposed ice surface layer very hard and extensive.