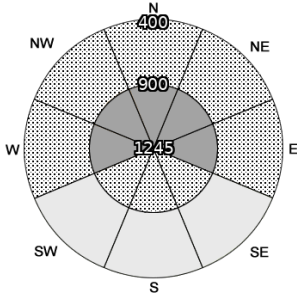


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 27/12/2010

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Mon 27/12/2010 TO 18:00HRS Tue 28/12/2010



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

Some light snowfall is expected overnight and during the morning. Winds will be strong South-Easterly and the freezing level at 300 metres will rise to 400 metres in the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Drifting will continue to build windslab on an already weakly bonded snowpack on mainly West through North to Easterly aspects above 900 metres where avalanches are likely. Gully exits, crag aprons and corrie rims will be particularly affected. Areas of scoured and stable old snow are evident on many aspects. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Mon 27/12/2010

Observed Weather Influences

It has been a milder day with moderate South- Westerly winds and no precipitation.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Areas of unstable hard windslab are present on mainly North-West through North to North-Easterly aspects above 900 metres, this overlies a weak layer of facets and surface hoar. Field tests produced easy failures in the snowpack on a North aspect at 1000 metres. Recent avalanche debris and crown wall were noted on a North-West aspect at 1050 metres. Hard stable snow-ice areas are present on a number of aspects. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

New snow mainly above 800 , scouring has exposed areas of snow-ice

Comments

Areas of old snow-ice are evident and provide good access - Good route finding skills are useful to avoid unstable areas of fresh new slab accumulations.