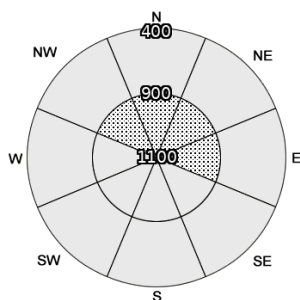


**Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Wed 29/12/2010 TO 18:00HRS Thu 30/12/2010**



Hazard Level	Avalanche Probability
<b>Very High</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. Numerous very large, often extremely large natural avalanches can be expected.
<b>High</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. In some cases, numerous large, often very large sized natural avalanches can be expected.
<b>Considerable</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches possible, in some cases large, in isolated cases very large sized natural avalanches are possible.
<b>Moderate</b>	Very large sized natural avalanches are unlikely. Human triggering possible in indicated steep places.
<b>Low</b>	Only small and medium sized natural avalanches are possible. Human triggering possible in steep, extreme terrain.

**Forecast Weather Influences**

High pressure will affect the area and it will remain dry and mild with light variable winds. The freezing Level will remain around 1200m with a midday summit temperature of plus 1 degree Celsius.

**Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

Little change; the snowpack will continue to consolidate although some isolated instabilities will persist around coire rims and gully tops on many North-West through North to East aspects above 900m. In these areas the stability of any cornice development remains questionable and during the thawing conditions any larger overhanging features remain best avoided. The avalanche hazard will be Moderate.

**Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 29/12/2010**

**Observed Weather Influences**

It has been a mild and cloudy day to start with but cloud cover cleared to above the summits as the day progressed. Winds have been variable and light.

**Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

The recent deposits of windslab, which lie predominately on North-West through North to East aspects above 800m, have become further consolidated and improved stability is evident throughout. Previous weak layers appeared well bonded and no shear failures were obtained where tested on a steep North Easterly aspect at 800m. The steady thaw has resulted in much depletion of the existing snowpack below 800m. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

**Mountain Conditions**

**Observed Mountain Travel Conditions**

General thaw at all levels with wet snow and significant snow loss below 700m.

**Comments**

Bit of a meltdown but cover still reasonable in plateau areas.