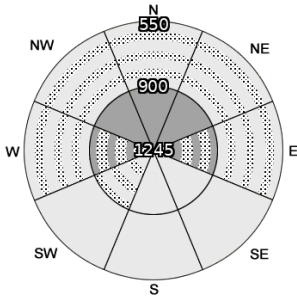


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 21/02/2011

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Mon 21/02/2011 TO 18:00HRS Tue 22/02/2011



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

It will be mainly dry with a few snow flurries on moderate South winds. The freezing level will rise from 650 metres overnight to 850 metres during the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Some drifting will take place at higher elevations leading to further windslab development on the already weakly bonded snowpack. Avalanches are likely on steep North-West to North-East aspects above 900 metres. Due to previous cross loading localised instabilities will affect other areas. Below this level some consolidation will take place during the slight temperature rise. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Mon 21/02/2011

Observed Weather Influences

It has been a dry day with strong to moderate South backing South-South-East winds. The freezing level was around 600 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Weakly bonded windslab is lying in sheltered locations on West through North to North-East aspects mainly above 900 metres. Cross loading is affecting other areas. Although the windslab surface is firm in places soft sub-surface layers are providing snowpack weaknesses. Windscored slopes are firm and stable. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Snow level starting around 550m. Scoured and firm on wind exposed slopes.

Comments

Although windslab deposits appear firm it's worth noting that hidden weaknesses are present due to faceting and softer sub-surface layers.