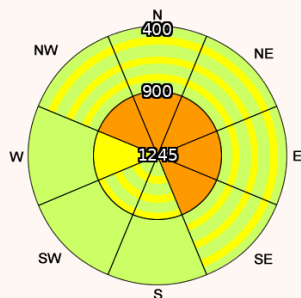


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 16/03/2011

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Wed 16/03/2011 TO 18:00HRS Thu 17/03/2011



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

Strong South-Westerly winds overnight will become more Westerly in the day, becoming light North-Westerly later. Freezing level above the summit, lowering during the night to 600 metres for the forecast period. Occasional light snow showers overnight and later in the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

New accumulations of drifted snow will form poorly bonded windslab onto a moderately bonded snowpack on North-West through North to South-Easterly aspects mainly above 900 metres, corrie rims, gully exits, flanks and steep slopes particularly affected. Elsewhere the snow pack is generally stable. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 16/03/2011

Observed Weather Influences

It has been a sunny, warm day, but with a cold South-Westerly wind at summit levels which continues to drift lying snow. Plus 5 degrees C on summits at midday.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The snowpack is generally well bonded and stable on all aspects below 900 metres. However drifting snow continues to build poorly bonded windslab onto mainly North-West to North-Easterly aspects above 900 metres. Gully exits, corrie rims and steep crag aprons most affected. Field tests on a North aspect at 990 metres produced failures in the new windslab. The avalanche hazard is Considerable

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Good snow cover above 400 metres. Still deep

Comments

Instabilities remain in the snowpack despite the blue sky of Wednesday !