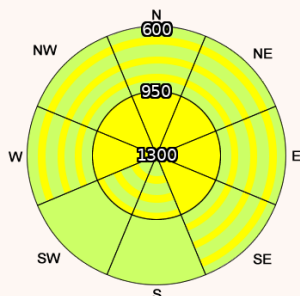


# Northern Cairngorms - Issued 30/12/2017

## Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 30/12/2017 TO 18:00HRS Sun 31/12/2017



| 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

Moderate to strong winds from the South-West backing South-East overnight, veering Westerly through the day. Snowfall above 500 to 600 metres is expected from the early morning onwards. The freezing level will briefly rise to 900 metres then fall to 600 metres.

### Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Drifting snow with unstable windslab becoming more widespread especially on Westerly through North, East to South-East aspects above 950 metres. Areas most affected will be confined to steep sheltered locations such as coire rims, gully exits, flanks and crag aprons. Below this altitude more isolated instabilities will develop on these aspects on localised steep terrain features. Developing cornices will be fragile. The avalanche hazard will be Moderate.

## Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 30/12/2017

### Observed Weather Influences

A cold day with light snow showers during the afternoon on light to moderate Northerly winds. The freezing level rose to around 600 metres.

### Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Localised and isolated accumulations of poorly bonded windslab are present on many aspects. Areas most affected are within deeper accumulations which have developed around coire rims, gully tops and crag aprons. North-West through North to South-East aspects above 950 metres are especially affected. Cornices have developed on these aspects. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

### Mountain Conditions

#### Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Icy paths and hillsides, with unconsolidated snow, ankle to knee deep in places hard going underfoot. Generally good visibility. Winds approx 10mph with spells of moderate gusts.

#### Comments

Variable wind direction over the next 24 hours with redistributed windslab affecting many areas.