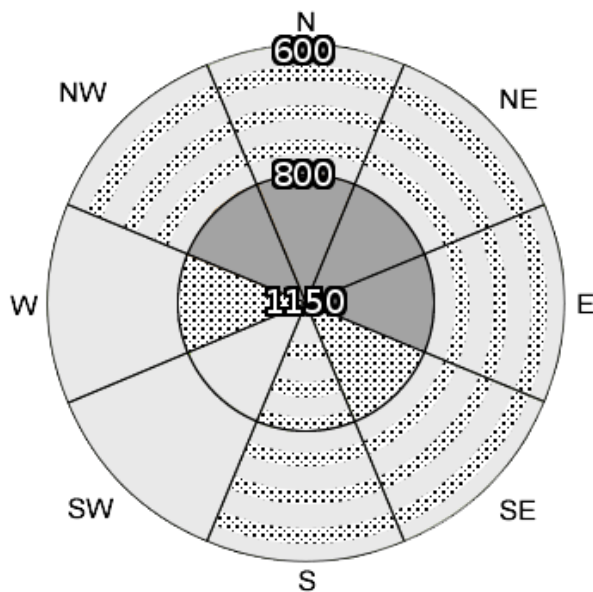


**Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Tue 13/02/2018 TO 18:00HRS Wed 14/02/2018**



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**

Snowfall from mid-morning until the end of the forecast period, heaviest around midday. Overnight fresh South-South-Westerly winds will back and increase in strength to become severe gale force South-South-Easterly during the period of heaviest snowfall. Easing slightly by the end of the day to strong Southerly. The freezing level will gradually rise during the day to 600 metres.

**Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

Snowfall and heavy drifting will rapidly form weakly bonded windslab on North-West to North-East aspects above 800 metres with avalanches likely in steeper, wind sheltered locations. Fragile cornices will form above these slopes. Poorly bonded windslab will also be present on East aspects above 800 metres. Moderately well bonded snow will be found below this altitude and on South-East and West aspects. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

**Observed Avalanche Hazard - Tue 13/02/2018**

**Observed Weather Influences**

Snowfall to valley level, sometimes heavy, from early until mid-morning then dry thereafter. Initially strong Southerly, then moderate Westerly winds during snowfall; strong North-Westerly winds during the afternoon. Cold with -4.8 degrees centigrade air temperature recorded at 930 metres this afternoon.

**Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

Poorly bonded windslab is present on North-West through North-East to South-East aspects above 800 metres. Wind sheltered locations are most affected with deep, unstable deposits present. Deep seated weaknesses persist within the snowpack. Areas of moderately well bonded snow are present below 800 metres. Exposed locations on mainly South-West and West aspects remain scoured and stable. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

**Mountain Conditions**

**Observed Mountain Travel Conditions**

New snow to valley level - hard going on foot. Visibility initially poor during snowfall, improving later. Winds variable in strength and direction - significant wind chill effect.

**Comments**

Mountain conditions likely to be extremely difficult on Wednesday due to snowfall and severe gale force winds.

