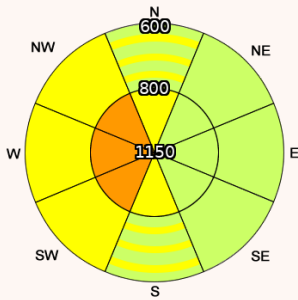


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 17/03/2018

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 17/03/2018 TO 18:00HRS Sun 18/03/2018



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

Light snow showers throughout the forecast period. Strong Easterly winds. Freezing level rising from surface to around 250 metres by the end of the afternoon.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Poorly bonded windslab will be present on South-West to North-West aspects above 800 metres. Wind sheltered locations such as gully exits and corrie rims will hold deepest accumulations. Fragile cornices will be present. Moderately bonded deposits will be encountered below this altitude on these aspects and also on North and South aspects. Easterly aspects will be wind scoured and icy. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 17/03/2018

Observed Weather Influences

Snow showers on strong Easterly winds. Bitterly cold with -8 degrees centigrade recorded at 930 metres at midday.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Unstable windslab has continued to form on South-West to North-West aspects with poorly bonded accumulations present in wind sheltered locations above 800 metres. Moderately bonded deposits are present below this altitude and on North and South aspects. Fragile cornices are present. Easterly aspects are scoured and icy. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Exposed slopes are extremely icy, drifts in lee locations. Poor visibility, occasionally clearing between showers. Winds 25-35mph, serious wind chill effect.

Comments

Exposed slopes have been stripped of snow and are firm and extremely icy. Forecasts suggest much better visibility below 1100m on Sunday.