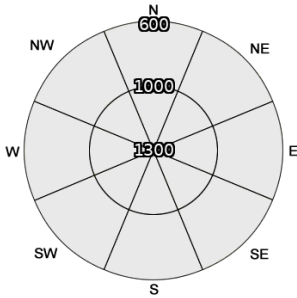


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 17/01/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 17/01/2020 TO 18:00HRS Sat 18/01/2020



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

Cool temperatures with light snow showers on strong West veering West-North-Westerly winds. These are expected to clear during the afternoon. The freezing level will be mostly around 600 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The old snowpack will be firm and stable throughout with greatest amounts on North to East aspects above 1000 metres. New accumulations of weakly bonded windslab will develop mostly on North-East to South-Easterly aspects above 1000 metres. Wind sheltered coire rims, ridge crests and gully exits being most affected - these areas will generally be isolated and avoidable. The avalanche hazard will be Low.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 17/01/2020

Observed Weather Influences

A mostly dry day with some scattered snow showers through the afternoon on strong West-South-Westerly winds. The freezing level was around 600 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The cold temperatures have consolidated the old snowpack in all areas and stability is generally good. Greatest snow amounts lie on North to East aspects above 1000 metres. Shallow and isolated pockets of snow have accumulated on Northerly to Easterly aspects above 950 metres. Elsewhere the terrain is mainly wind scoured or icy. The avalanche hazard is Low.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Icy paths and hillsides, firm snow-ice mostly above 1000m, N to E aspects. Cold clear conditions, spells of low cloud over the plateau and during afternoon showers. Winds approx 50 - 60 mph over the summits and ridges, progress very difficult with potential to be blown off your feet.

Comments

Old snowpack firm and icy with serious runout potential on some steep slopes.