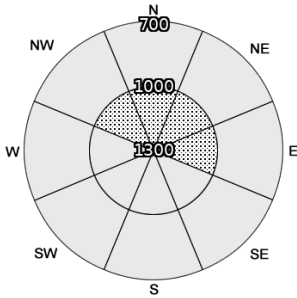


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 02/02/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sun 02/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Mon 03/02/2020



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

Snow showers will continue these will be heaviest and most prolonged during the morning. Strong Southerly winds through the night, increasing strong to gale force and veering South-West then Westerly through the day. The freezing level will rise to near summit levels overnight for a short spell, cooler through the day, freezing levels gradually falling to 600 metres by the end of the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Windslab will continue to develop initially on North-West to North-East aspects then later North-East to Easterly aspects. South-East aspects also affected but this will lie mostly on bare ground. Greatest instability will be where windslab achieves depth over the old snowpack above 1000 metres, with corrie rims, gully tops and headwalls especially affected. Isolated windslab below 1000 metres on steep sheltered banks. Fragile cornices developing. The avalanche hazard will be Moderate.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sun 02/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

Dry at first with snowfall arriving at midday above 600 metres, this continued through the afternoon on moderate to strong Southerly winds. The freezing level rose to around 700 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

New localised windslab has developed on North-West to North-East aspects mainly above 1000 metres. Deeper accumulations which overlie the old snowpack are poorly bonded. Areas most affected are in steep sheltered terrain such as around corrie rims, headwalls and gully tops. Isolated areas of unstable windslab have developed on steep sheltered banks below 1000 metres. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Icy paths and hillsides drifts developing in lee areas. Blizzard conditions through the afternoon on the plateau. Winds 30 gusting 50 mph, progress difficult and tiring.

Comments

A brief mild spell tonight before turning cooler, very windy on Monday.