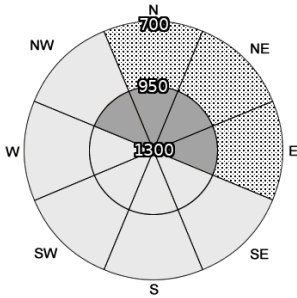


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 08/02/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 08/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Sun 09/02/2020



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

Heavy snow during Saturday evening will die out to light showers until daylight hours when sleet and snow will lie at summit levels and then snow above 700m in the afternoon as it cools. Winds remaining storm force South-Westerly during the evening, lessening to gale force overnight before strengthening once more to storm force during the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Unstable and weakly bonded windslab will continue to build and develop in extent. Some stabilisation will take place during the morning but accumulations will further increase both in depth and extent later. Greatest amounts will lie on North-West through North to East aspects above 950m, especially in steep, wind sheltered lee aspects such as coire backwalls, gullies and crag aprons. Unstable cornices will also build on the same aspects. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 08/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

A day of very strong gale force South-West to Southerly, gusting storm force winds. Snow fall dying out in the morning with a mostly dry day, however drifting continued to deposit snow in lee areas, then heavy snow fall from mid afternoon. Freezing level around 500m level.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Localised areas of weakly bonded windslab continue to build on North-West through North to Easterly aspects mostly above 1000 metres. Steep lee aspects such as coire headwalls, gully exits and ridge flanks most affected. Other areas are wind scoured or firm snow ice and stable. At lower levels deeper moderately bonded accumulations have formed in small lee places such as gullies and banks. The avalanche hazard is Moderate

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Very hard snow ice on exposed windward slopes deep and soft in lee areas. Good visibility in the morning with poor visibility in clouds and snow afternoon.

Comments

Poorly bonded windslab developing in extent and storm force winds will present serious and challenging conditions.