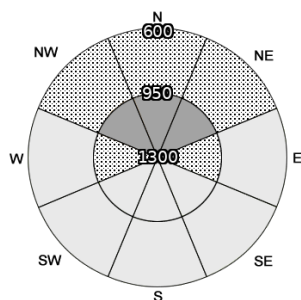


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 14/02/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 14/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Sat 15/02/2020



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

Gale to severe gale force South-West backing South-South-Easterly winds will continue throughout the forecast period. Mostly dry overnight with snow showers dying out. During the morning continuous snowfall is expected above 800 metres, this will turn to sleet and rain at all levels through the afternoon as freezing levels rise to above the tops. Turning cooler later in the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Initially unstable accumulations of windslab will become more widespread on steep sheltered North-West to North-East aspects mainly above 950 metres. Other aspects will also be affected due to cross loading. During the onset of rain there will be a period of increased instability with avalanches likely in these areas. Cornices will become increasingly unstable. Instabilities will also be present on steep banks and shallow gullies below 950 metres. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 14/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

A day of severe gale force South-South-Westerly winds with snowfall throughout the day. The freezing level rose to around 1000 metres by midday.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

New unstable accumulations of windslab are developing on sheltered North-West through North to East aspects mainly above 900 metres. Steep sheltered areas such as around corrie rims and gully tops are most affected. On these aspects below 900 metres deep accumulations of generally stable windslab remain on steep sheltered banks. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Widespread snowpack, scoured on wind exposed ridges and slopes. Blizzard and whiteout conditions presenting challenging and serious conditions at higher levels. Winds approx 60-75 mph, blowing us over frequently, serious conditions.

Comments

Stormy unsettled conditions expected to continue over the next 48 hours.