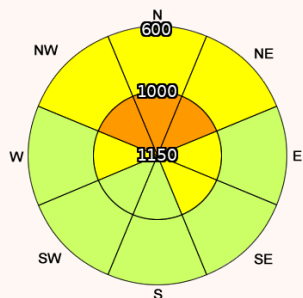


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 14/02/2020

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

After a dry night, snowfall will arrive during the morning, turning increasingly to sleet and then rain as the freezing level rises to above the summits during the early afternoon. Winds will be gale force, generally Southerly throughout the day.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Surface layers of the snowpack will start to refreeze overnight with many locations displaying good stability. Fresh, moderately to poorly bonded deposits will form in wind sheltered locations on North-West to North-East aspects above 1000 metres with moderately bonded deposits present on West and East aspects and at lower altitudes. Fragile cornices will start to form and will be affected by the rising freezing level later in the period. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 14/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

Light, intermittent snow showers from mid-morning to early afternoon on very strong Southerly winds. The freezing level rose through the morning to reach around 950 metres by early afternoon.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Below 900 metres the snow is starting to thaw and is becoming generally stable. Above 900 metres on North through East to South-East aspects, moderately bonded deposits persist in steeper, wind sheltered locations. Limited new accumulations have formed on North-West to North-East aspects. Exposed slopes and plateau areas are wind scoured and occasionally icy. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Mixture of deep drifts and scoured slopes. No visibility above 800 metres. Winds approx 40-50 mph making progress very difficult and strenuous.

Comments

Difficult mountain conditions expected as Storm Dennis crosses the country.