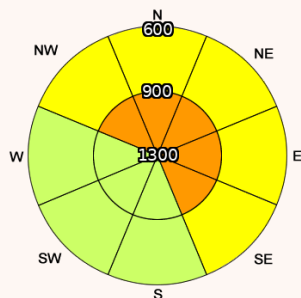


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 19/02/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Wed 19/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Thu 20/02/2020



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

Overnight the freezing level will rise to well above the summits before lowering to around 500m by early morning. Precipitation will be rain to summit levels overnight then snow showers above 400m, heavier in the afternoon. Winds severe gale generally South-Westerly throughout the period.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

After a period of instability overnight the snowpack will refreeze and stabilise in most areas during the day. Steep slopes, coire headwalls, gully exits and convex shaped terrain, will be most affected. Later, where deep, areas of new localised moderately bonded windslab will form in wind sheltered places mostly above 950m on N to E aspects, with gully exits and coire rims most affected. Elsewhere snow stability will become good or scoured and bare. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 19/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

Moderate strength Westerly winds at first increasing to very strong gale force around midday as the wind backed South-Westerly. No precipitation but heavy drifting. Freezing level around 400 metres and rising as the day progressed.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Poorly bonded windslab continues to develop on mainly NW through N and E to SE aspects above 900 metres. Steep wind sheltered lee slopes such as ridge crests, coire headwalls and convex shaped terrain especially affected. Unstable cornices above same aspects. W aspects also affected locally due to cross loading. Elsewhere terrain is scoured or below 900m, stability is generally good, but with isolated moderately bonded deep deposits in steep banks. The avalanche hazard is Considerable

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Deep snow at all altitudes - very hard going on foot. Knee deep at 600m!. Clear in the morning with poor visibility in clouds and drifting snow afternoon. Winds approx 75 mph and above, serious and challenging conditions on tops.

Comments

Fluctuating temperatures with instabilities for a short period of time overnight then refreezing during the day.