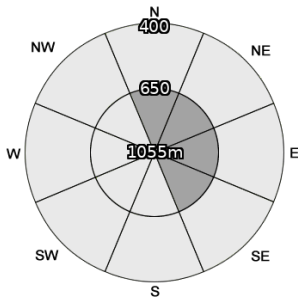


**Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Wed 19/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Thu 20/02/2020**



Hazard Level	Avalanche Probability
<b>Very High</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. Numerous very large, often extremely large natural avalanches can be expected.
<b>High</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. In some cases, numerous large, often very large sized natural avalanches can be expected.
<b>Considerable</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches possible, in some cases large, in isolated cases very large sized natural avalanches are possible.
<b>Moderate</b>	Very large sized natural avalanches are unlikely. Human triggering possible in indicated steep places.
<b>Low</b>	Only small and medium sized natural avalanches are possible. Human triggering possible in steep, extreme terrain.

**Forecast Weather Influences**

Rain at all levels will turn to increasingly wintry showers by midnight and continuing throughout the day as the freezing level quickly falls to around 400 metres by daybreak. Southerly gales will ease slightly overnight, becoming strong West-South-West, but strengthening Westerly by the end of the period.

**Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

Due to rapid thaw conditions, there will be a period of significant instability overnight in areas of moderately bonded windslab, North through East to South-East aspects above 650 metres, after which the snowpack will begin to consolidate. Localised areas of fresh unstable windslab are expected throughout the day on steep slopes, in same locations. Remaining cornices will be fragile. Wind exposed areas will be scoured. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

**Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 19/02/2020**

**Observed Weather Influences**

A fine and bright morning rapidly deteriorated by midday with strengthening Southerly winds reaching gale force. Rain, preceded by snow arrived early afternoon. The freezing level rose to around 800 metres by same time.

**Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

Areas of moderately bonded windslab has accumulated in steep sheltered locations, most notably, ridge flanks, coire rims and in gullies, North through East to South-East aspects, mainly above 650 metres. Significant instabilities expected later in the period in thaw conditions on same slopes. Fragile cornices observed. Wind exposed slopes are scoured. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

**Mountain Conditions**

**Observed Mountain Travel Conditions**

Breakable crust at all levels initially, softening later. Icy in places. Generally good visibility at first, deteriorating in the afternoon. Strengthening winds 20 -30 mph progress difficult at times with stronger gusts and spindrift.

**Comments**

The existing snowpack will continue to consolidate throughout the period. Returning to a cold showery Westerly airstream overnight, but mild, windy and wet again on Friday.