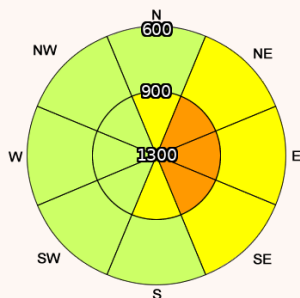


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 21/02/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 21/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Sat 22/02/2020



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

The freezing level will steadily fall from summit levels through the night to 400 metres by the morning. Persistent snowfall throughout the forecast period falling above 200 metres by daybreak and continuing for the rest of the day. Winds will be gale to Storm force, generally West-South-Westerly in direction.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The old snowpack will refreeze and stabilise in most areas. Deep, accumulations of poorly bonded windslab will quickly develop in wind sheltered places mostly above 900 metres on North-East to South-East aspects; here avalanches are likely, especially in areas of steep terrain. Cross loaded windslab will develop on North and South facing slopes. Below 900 metres localised areas of windslab will develop on steep banks and slopes. Fragile cornices. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 21/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

Snowfall turned to rain at all levels during the morning on severe gale force West-South-Westerly winds. The freezing level rose to above the summits by mid morning.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The snowpack surface layers are thawing and have become saturated. Wet snow instabilities are present on North through East to South-East aspects mainly above 900 metres. Avalanche debris from recent activity was observed on a steep and convex Easterly aspect at 1000 metres. Unstable cornices overhang these areas. Below 900 metres deep accumulations of soft moderately bonded windslab are present on steep banks. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Wet soft snowpack. Visibility mostly good. Winds approx 75 gusting over 100 mph serious and challenging conditions.

Comments

Blizzard conditions expected over the next 24 hours.