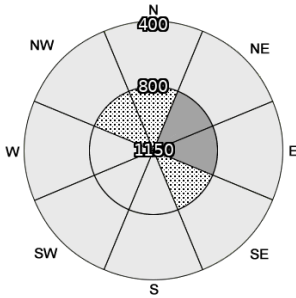


Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 22/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Sun 23/02/2020



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

Snow showers above 300 metres overnight will become heavier as the day progresses. Winds will be strong overnight decreasing through the day generally Westerly. The freezing level will be 400 metres overnight rising to 700 metres by evening.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The old snowpack will generally be stable with a firm crust developing on many wind exposed slopes. New snow and strong winds will form areas of weakly bonded windslab in sheltered locations. Greatest accumulations of windslab will form in sheltered gullies and on North-Easterly to South-Easterly aspects above 800 metres. Other areas may be affected by cross loading, notably gully exits and corrie headwalls. Fresh cornices will be fragile. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 22/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

There have been frequent showers of snow and hail above 300 metres, these have been driven on by a very strong and cold South-Westerly airflow. The freezing level is around 500 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Overnight a return to colder conditions started to re-freeze the old wet snowpack. This has stabilised many areas with widespread scouring on exposed slopes. Strong winds, snow showers and wind transport have formed unstable windslab in areas sheltered from the South-Westerly gales. Greatest deposits are in sheltered gully exits and on slopes with a North-East to Easterly aspect mainly above 850 metres. These areas tend to be localised in nature. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Snowpack reduced after yesterdays rain but still good above 800 metres. Whiteout conditions with drifting during snow showers. Winds approx 40 mph much stronger on the tops.

Comments

Wind exposed slopes will generally be stable but with a firm, icy and unforgiving surface. Ice will also develop on paths and watercourses giving a slick surface.