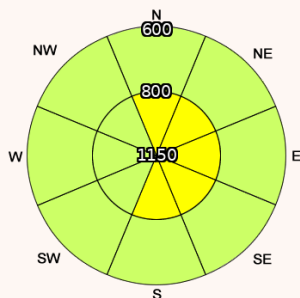


Southern Cairngorms - Issued 22/02/2020

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

Very light snow showers overnight will eventually cease to give a mostly dry day. Gale force West-South-Westerly winds overnight, gradually veering West-North-Westerly during the day. 400 metre freezing level initially, rising to 600 metres by mid-afternoon.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Moderately bonded windslab will be present in wind sheltered locations on mainly North-East to South-East aspects above 800 metres with some localised accumulations on North and South aspects. Gully tops, corrie rims and steep burn lines will be particularly affected. Any new cornices will remain fragile. Areas exposed to the strong winds will be scoured and stable. The avalanche hazard will be Moderate.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 22/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

Frequent snow showers throughout the period. Severe gale and storm force Westerly winds. Minus 4 degrees Centigrade at 930 metres at midday.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Persistent heavy drifting is rapidly forming unstable windslab in the most wind sheltered locations on mainly North-East to South-East aspects with some cross-loading occurring on North and South aspects above 800 metres. Distribution is localised but depth has become significant in some areas. Fragile cornices are forming. Exposed areas are wind scoured and stable. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Wind scoured and bare on many aspects, deep drifts in lee locations. No visibility during showers, otherwise good. Winds 50-60 mph progress very difficult.

Comments

Start zones on affected aspects should be avoided for the next 24 hour period.