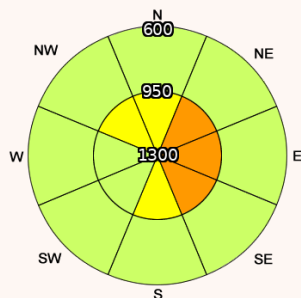


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 26/02/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Wed 26/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Thu 27/02/2020



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

Strong to moderate strength West-South-Westerly then Westerly winds will continue throughout the forecast period, with drifting. Precipitation will fall as light snow showers becoming more persistent in the afternoon. Remaining cold with a freezing level around 400 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Weakly bonded windslab will persist on mainly NE to SE aspects above 950 metres, where avalanches are likely. With localised unstable windslab on N and Southerly aspects due to cross loading. Wind sheltered lee slopes, Gully exits and flanks, ridge flanks and coire headwalls will be especially affected. Cornices here will be weak and liable to collapse. Below 950 metres the snowpack is generally stable with some instabilities in steep banks. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Wed 26/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

A day of strong Westerly winds and significant drifting, especially at higher elevations. Mostly dry with the odd snow shower. Freezing level around 400 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

New firm windslab is present on mostly North-East to Easterly aspects above 950 metres, this overlies a very weak layer of soft snow. A large triggered avalanche was observed on an Easterly aspect at 1000m. Cornices above these aspects are weak with evidence of collapse. Below 950m the snowpack is generally stable but some isolated moderately bonded windslab has begun to build on steep wind sheltered banks. The avalanche hazard is Considerable

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Deep snow at lower altitudes - very hard going on foot. Knee deep at 600m! Wind exposed areas scoured and firm. Cloudy on the tops with some bright spells better at lower elevations. Winds 30 -40 mph with progress difficult on occasions.

Comments

Weak windslab will persist and overlies a soft weak layer.