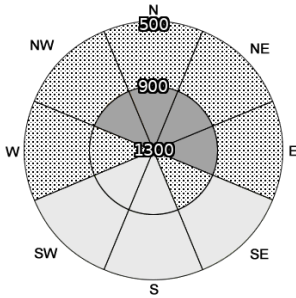


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 28/02/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Fri 28/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Sat 29/02/2020



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

Moderate to strong Southerly winds will increase strong to gale force during the day. The freezing level will briefly rise to above the summits overnight before plummeting to 600 metres during the morning then later 400 metres. During the mild spell light snow will turn to rain and sleet at summit levels. Occasional snow showers will follow, these turning heavier and more persistent through the afternoon.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Poorly bonded windslab will continue to develop on mainly NW, through N to E aspects mostly above 900 metres, here avalanches are likely, especially during the temperature rise. Steep and convex terrain will be particularly affected. Cornices will be unstable. Localised instabilities will also affect steep banks below 900 metres. As it turns cooler, snowpack stability will begin to improve. Later new windslab will develop on NW to NE aspects. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Fri 28/02/2020

Observed Weather Influences

Strong to gale force Southerly winds with persistent snowfall during the afternoon. The freezing level was at 600 metres.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Heavy drifting above 550 metres. Weakly bonded windslab quickly developed on NW to NE aspects with most widespread accumulations above 900 metres. Steep wind sheltered lee slopes, gully exits, ridge flanks and coire headwalls are especially affected. Cross loading has affected other aspects. Poorly bonded windslab is also present on steep banks and slopes below 900 metres. Human triggered avalanches were reported on a NE aspect at 700m. Unstable Cornices. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Deep snow cover above 500m - wind exposed ridges and slopes scoured. Whiteout conditions with poor visibility at all levels. Winds approx 50 - 60 mph progress very difficult with potential to be taken off your feet.

Comments

A period of increased instability during the early morning.