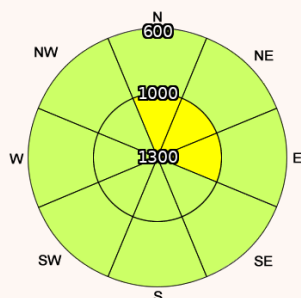


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 17/03/2020

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Tue 17/03/2020 TO 18:00HRS Wed 18/03/2020



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

Winds will be strong to gale force mostly West-South-Westerly throughout the forecast period. Precipitation will be snow showers Tuesday evening, then continuously light showers during the day, becoming more persistent later in the afternoon. Freezing level lowering to 500 metres with snow lying above around 300 metres.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The old snowpack will be firm icy and stable in all areas. New accumulations of unstable windslab will develop mostly above 1000 metres, especially where it gains depth in wind sheltered places on mainly Northerly to Easterly aspects. Gully exits and coire headwalls being most affected. At lower elevations some localised accumulations may form in wind sheltered steep banks but these will be small, shallow and mostly avoidable. The avalanche hazard will be Moderate

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Tue 17/03/2020

Observed Weather Influences

A mostly dry day with light snow showers developing in the afternoon. Winds very strong West-South-Westerly lessening slightly as the day progressed. Freezing level around 700 metres or so.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Fluctuating temperatures have helped consolidate the snowpack and weaknesses that have been present at highest elevations have diminished. The snowpack is firm icy and stable in most locations. Light precipitation falling as snow above 600 metres has produced thin accumulations of avoidable windslab in wind sheltered places on North-East to East aspects. The avalanche hazard is Low

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Firm snow - ice on most aspects. Clear in the morning with poor visibility in clouds and snow afternoon. Winds gusts very strong on the summits, serious and challenging conditions.

Comments

Very icy with serious runouts in many places, with high consequence for slides and falls. Winds remaining strong.