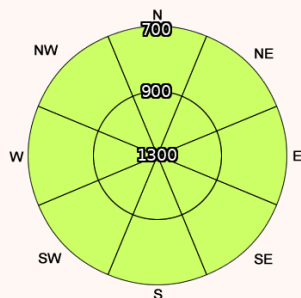


Northern Cairngorms - Issued 23/02/2021

Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Tue 23/02/2021 TO 18:00HRS Wed 24/02/2021



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

Precipitation will fall as rain at all levels during the night, turning to snow only on the highest summits as showers become lighter during the morning. The afternoon will be dry. The freezing level will be well above the summits overnight falling to around 1300m during the morning and 1000m by the end of the afternoon. Winds will be very strong South-South-Westerly.

Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The snowpack will continue to thaw and remain well bonded and stable in most locations. Isolated wet snow instabilities will be present in some steep windsheltered locations on North-West to North-East aspects above 1000 metres, particularly overnight Tuesday. Any new snow accumulations that develop on the highest summits, during the day, are not expected to be significant. The snowpack will start to refreeze above 1000 metres during the afternoon. The avalanche hazard will be Low.

Observed Avalanche Hazard - Tue 23/02/2021

Observed Weather Influences

It was a mild, very windy and wet day, with storm force South-South-Easterly winds. Heavy precipitation was initially snow above 900 metres before turning to rain at all levels. The freezing level was rose above the summits at around midday.

Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Accumulations of fresh windslab developed during the morning, with steep wind sheltered locations on North-West to North-East aspects above 900 metres most affected. These accumulations became increasingly unstable as the temperature rose and precipitation turned to rain. Elsewhere the snowpack is generally well bonded and stable and continues to thaw and diminish. The avalanche hazard is Moderate.

Mountain Conditions

Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Diminishing snowpack, good above 800 metres No visibility throughout the day above 800 metres, heavy rain at most levels. Winds approx 75 mph and above, serious and challenging conditions.

Comments

A colder day on Thursday but remaining windy.