

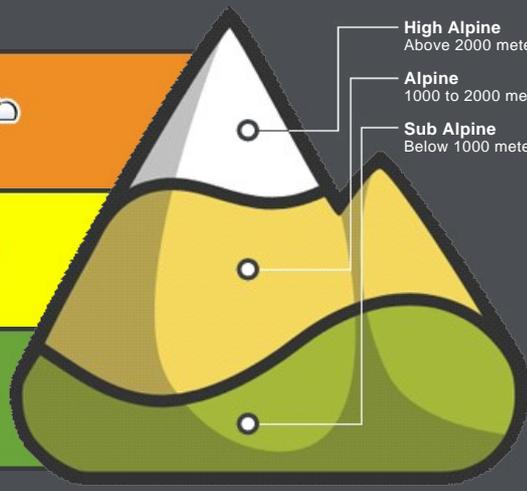
3. Considerable
Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.



2. Moderate
Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.



1. Low
Generally safe, watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.

Avalanche Danger Scale

5. Extreme
4. High
3. Considerable
2. Moderate
1. Low
? Unknown



MS
OUTDOOR SAFETY

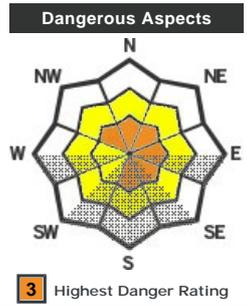
This 'Backcountry Avalanche Advisory' is provided as a public service by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. It is intended as an advisory only.

Primary Avalanche Danger



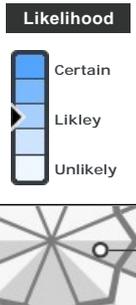
WIND SLAB

Dangerous Aspects

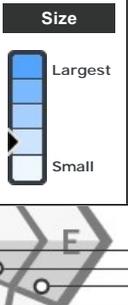


3 Highest Danger Rating

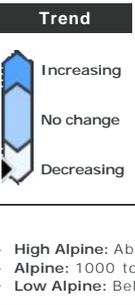
Likelihood



Size



Trend



Time of day





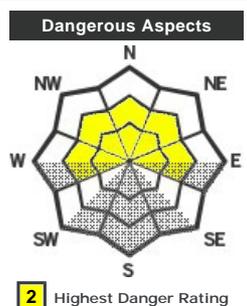
Description:
Areas of reactive wind slab may have formed over the weekend due to periods of heavy precipitation and gale force winds from the Northerly 1/4. These slabs may be encountered on slopes facing East through to South above about 1400m. A wind shift to the Southerly 1/4 on Sunday evening may lead to wind slab development on North/NW facing slopes. The bond between the new snow and the old surface will be suspect in many places. Avalanches could trigger under the weight of a single skier or rider. Avoid ridge line entry points, convex rolls and other steep ground if you discover deposits of stiff, wind driven snow. Careful terrain selection and a cautious approach will be wise on Monday.

Secondary Avalanche Danger



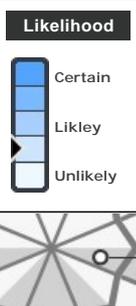
LOOSE WET

Dangerous Aspects

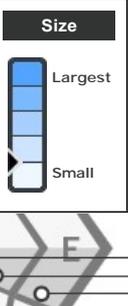


2 Highest Danger Rating

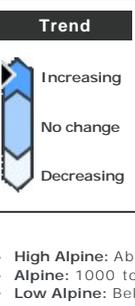
Likelihood



Size



Trend



Time of day





Description:
If the sun comes out on Monday we are likely to see an increase in wet slide activity particularly on the solar (North Facing) aspects. Point releases and roller balling are warning signs that the surface is heating rapidly.

Current Snowpack Conditions



A substantial amount of snow (150cm plus) has fallen along the Divide in recent days. Snowfall totals have been lower further East. More snow fell across the region on Sunday. Weak layers still exist in the mid and lower pack in places. These include, areas of buried surface hoar and facets (weak, sugary forms). Rain/rime crusts which formed several weeks ago are breaking down and the facet layers above and below them have been trending to round out. However, if enough weight lands on the pack, deep failures could occur. Prior to the most recent snowfalls areas of breakable crust were widespread at lower elevations with soft, wet snow underneath.

Recent Avalanche Activity



Storm conditions and long periods of poor visibility over the past couple of days have restricted observations.

Mountain Weather



The weather is due to improve on Monday with fine breaks and winds from the Southerly 1/4. It is important to keep in mind that even as skies clear, moderate winds can shift snow and create avalanche hazard.



For more information go to: <http://www.metService.com/mountain/index>