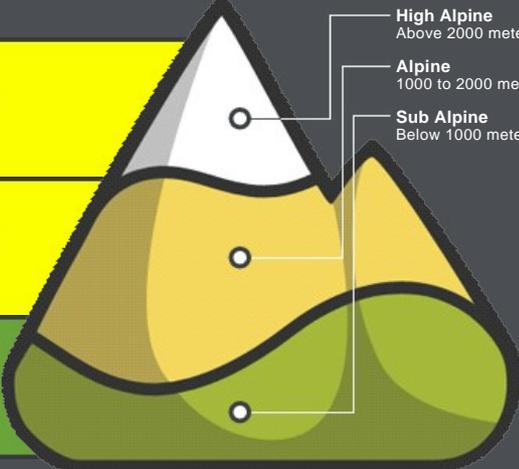


<p><b>2.Moderate</b> Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.</p> 	
<p><b>2.Moderate</b> Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.</p> 	
<p><b>1.Low</b> Generally safe, watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.</p> 	

**Avalanche Danger Scale**

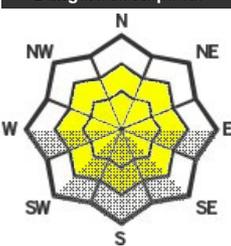
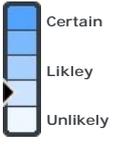
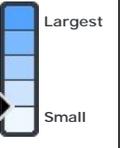
5. Extreme
4. High
3. Considerable
2. Moderate
1. Low
? Unknown



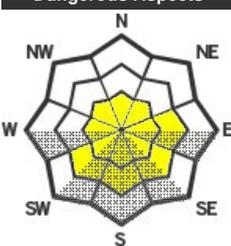
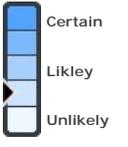
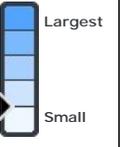
**MS OUTDOOR SAFETY**

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.

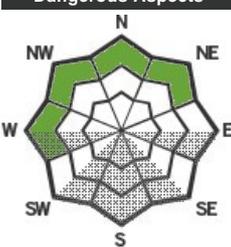
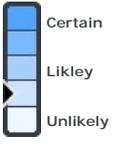
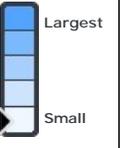
**Primary Avalanche Danger**

 <b>WIND SLAB</b>	<p><b>Dangerous Aspects</b></p>  <p><b>2</b> Highest Danger Rating</p>	<p><b>Likelihood</b></p> 	<p><b>Size</b></p> 	<p><b>Trend</b></p> 	<p><b>Time of day</b></p>  <p>All day</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Consolidation continued yesterday with warmer temps (+3c @ 1700 m) and rain/snow on the snowpack. Cold overnight temps will have a re-freeze this morning. We know there are weak facets in random areas, be cautious as they will be reactive to overloading. This means the weight of a single skier/rider could be enough to trigger an avalanche. We have had several changes in temperature (warm and back to cold) and many buried weak layers now coming under tension. This is no time to be in any steep avalanche terrain !</p>
						

**Secondary Avalanche Danger**

 <b>PERSISTENT SLAB</b>	<p><b>Dangerous Aspects</b></p>  <p><b>2</b> Highest Danger Rating</p>	<p><b>Likelihood</b></p> 	<p><b>Size</b></p> 	<p><b>Trend</b></p> 	<p><b>Time of day</b></p>  <p>All day</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Weak layers are down 50 cms in the snowpack, deeper after this current storm cycle given a lot of wind transport. Triggering an avalanche on this weak layer is becoming more of a possibility, tension and extra weight is being added to the snowpack. Sugary crystals sit above and below several crusts. Avoid overloading large open slopes above 1800m, be aware whats above you and keep clear of avalanche run-out zones. There may be a natural cycle of events if day temperatures become warm.</p>
						

**Tertiary Avalanche Danger**

 <b>LOOSE WET</b>	<p><b>Dangerous Aspects</b></p>  <p><b>1</b> Highest Danger Rating</p>	<p><b>Likelihood</b></p> 	<p><b>Size</b></p> 	<p><b>Trend</b></p> 	<p><b>Time of day</b></p>  <p>12pm - 4pm</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> More roller balling on solar aspects yesterday but a good freeze last night. It may be warm this afternoon, the thin snowpack on W to NE aspects could become wet and release at ground. Best option is to be on shady aspects today.</p>
						

**Current Snowpack Conditions**

	<p>Some heavy moist snow yesterday and a good frost overnight. You will find an icy crust on the snow surface. We are seeing a period of consolidation, especially some of those surface facets, however deeper weak layers will be surviving. Stay well clear of any steep terrain, especially where hard windslab deposits have formed. Avoid these spots as tension and weight will added to surviving weak layers, its easy to get it wrong because there is so much variability in the snowpack at present. The backcountry is still a real mixed bag, confidence in snowpack stability is low.</p>
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**Recent Avalanche Activity**

	<p>Another warm day yesterday with more rain/sleet on the snowpack. Heavy wet snow in the morning and wet roller balling yesterday afternoon. We may see a period of natural activity as weak layers become overloaded. You will need a conservative approach, avoiding areas of stiff windslab. Keep to good techniques like one at a time and safe point to safe point.</p>
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**Mountain Weather**

	<p>Fine and frosty, fog in sheltered places. Winds from the NW remaining light. Freezing level rising to around 1800 m.</p>
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For more information go to: <http://www.metservice.com/mountain/index>