

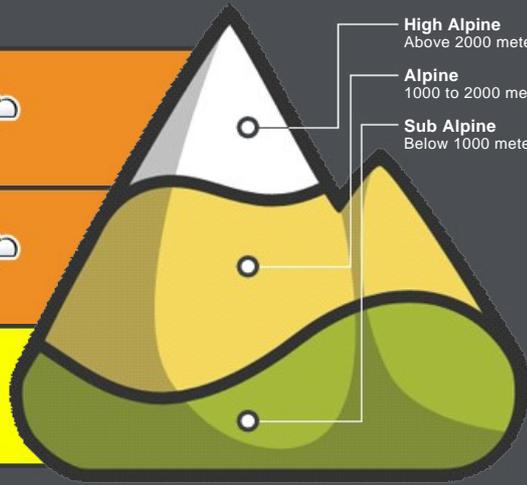
3.Considerable
Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.



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2.Moderate
Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.

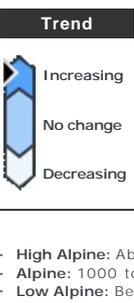
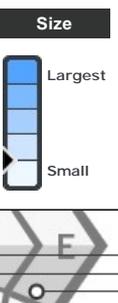
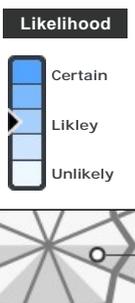
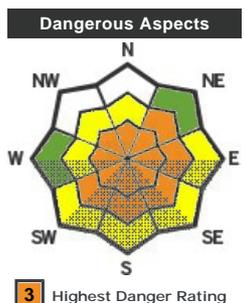



Avalanche Danger Scale



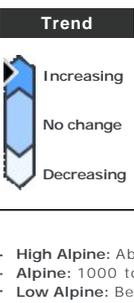
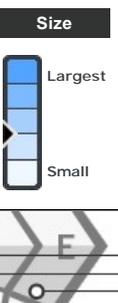
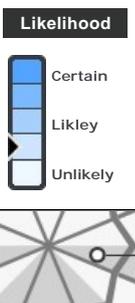
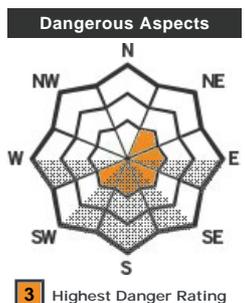
This 'Backcountry Avalanche Advisory' is provided as a public service by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. It is intended as an advisory only.

Primary Avalanche Danger



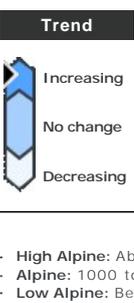
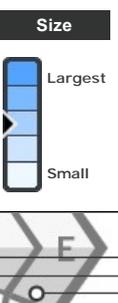
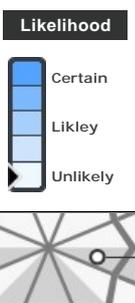
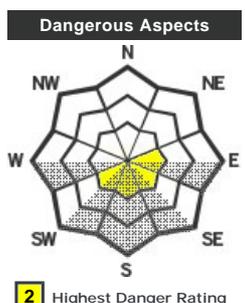
Description:
Storm/windslab conditions on SW to NE (perhaps all) aspects with strong NW winds continuing this morning and over 30 cms of new snow available for transport, initial bonding strength will be poor and another wind change later today. Avoid all convex rolls of stiff snow which will continue to develop at ridge-crest today. Avoid all steep terrain on lee aspects and expect some decent snow drifts to have formed, perhaps a cycle of natural activity as the day progresses. Don't expect the backcountry to be a friendly place today, conditions need to settle before any extensive travel. Keep to moderate terrain and watch your not near any avalanche run-out zones.

Secondary Avalanche Danger



Description:
There will and has been significant wind transport over the past few days and its not over yet ! Cornices will be forming and failing throughout the day. The weight of a cornice is massive and this may initiate a natural avalanche upon failure. Don't be skinning up under one of these today, you all know why, not a day to test your luck.

Tertiary Avalanche Danger



Description:
This is still an unknown and needs a bit more investigating, there has certainly been an active avalanche cycle where this layer has failed, it still exists in the odd spot ! Lets not tempt fate, avoid entering avalanche terrain from ridge-crest and be suspicious of convex roll overs, if you encounter a stiff slab be concerned the weight or you in a small avalanche will be stressing these weak layers and become involved in an event that doesn't bear thinking about. Best option, fresh tracks day at the local !!

Current Snowpack Conditions



Over 30 cms of new snow with more on the way, all sitting on a moist snowpack, a little unknown to what point the freezing level has reached overnight. Winds have been strong to gale over the past 36 hrs and are not done yet. The PWL is becoming less of a player. If you are heading backcountry steer clear of all steep terrain and choose to be conservative in your route selection, there is a lot of unknowns. When venturing out be prepared for storm slab conditions, expect snow drifts in excess of 1 m, initial bonding will be weak. Visibility will also be poor making route finding difficult, not a day for extensive touring, enjoy fresh tracks a your local.

Recent Avalanche Activity



A lot of snow transport yesterday with storm slab forming and reactive to light loads, more snow and wind overnight so expect more of the same today. Also of note, ridge-lines where cornices have quickly developed and failed, it will pay to be cautious of those entry slopes from the ridge-line. there could be a cycle of natural activity today with overloading. Avoid all areas of stiff windslab especially around steep terrain and thin areas around rocky out-crops.

Mountain Weather



Scattered rain with heavy falls at first, clearing to a mainly cloudy day with occasional fine breaks. Showers returning in the evening and snow lowering to about 700 m again tonight. Winds gale NW, turning SE and easing. The freezing level lowering to 1100 m.



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