

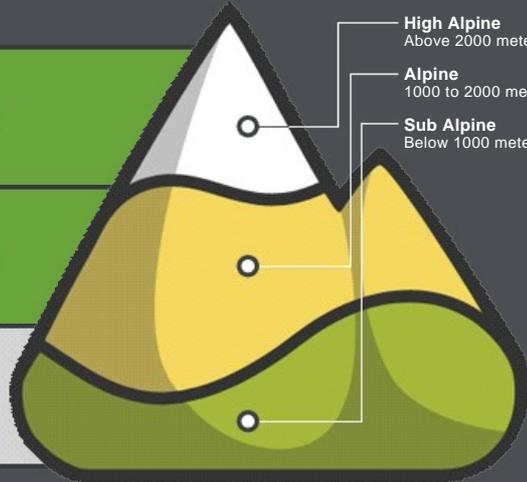
1.Low
Generally safe, watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.



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No Rating
Not enough snow on the ground to create avalanche conditions.

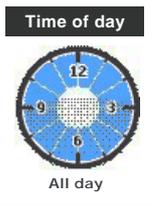
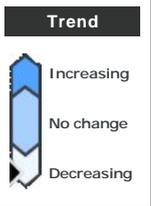
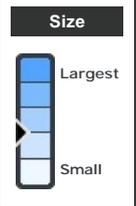
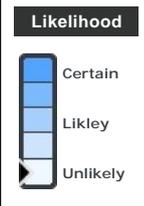
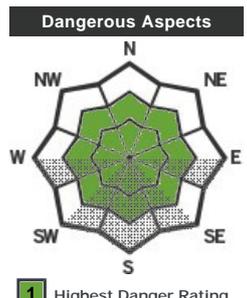



Avalanche Danger Scale



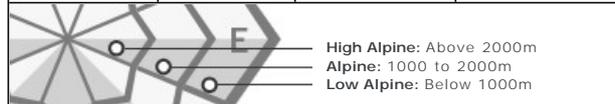
This 'Backcountry Avalanche Advisory' is provided as a public service by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. It is intended as an advisory only.

Primary Avalanche Danger

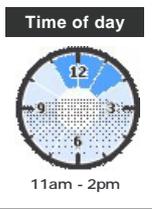
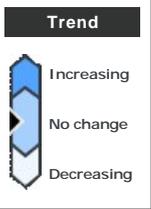
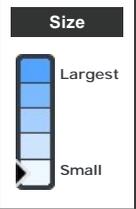
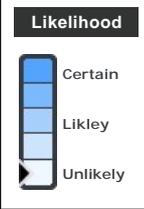
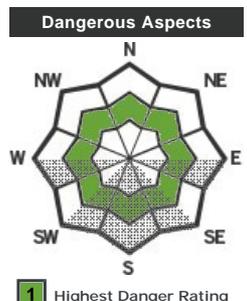


Description:

There is a LOW danger of triggering a persistent slab avalanche in the Hutt backcountry. Weak basal layers have been healing recently with moderate temperatures, and time to adjust to many different weather stresses. Places where you are more likely to trigger one of these types of avalanches would be higher elevations (>1800m), where the persistent weak layers are more prevalent, and in thin areas like rock outcroppings, where you are more able to effect the lower layers.

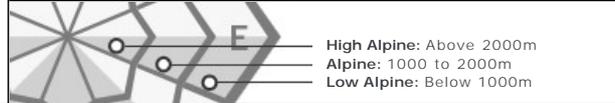


Secondary Avalanche Danger



Description:

If NW winds are less strong than forecast tomorrow, there may be a LOW danger of a person triggering very small wet loose avalanches on steep slopes at mid elevations.



Current Snowpack Conditions



Current snowpack surfaces are being scoured by severe gale NW winds. Below wind scoured and polished surfaces we may have a mix of firm snow being densely packed wind slabs on stout rain crusts on older less dense storm snow and crusts and facets (weak sugary snow) at the bottom. Snow depths are generally 50-250cm.

Recent Avalanche Activity



None observed in the Hutt Range, but a size 2.5 wet slab avalanche was reported by Methven Heli on a north facing slope on Peak 2009 in the Arrowsmiths yesterday. The avalanche was witnessed and likely skier triggered, but no one was close or caught. The slab was thought to be formed by convective cooling from NW winds. The slide initially ran on an older snow bed surface and eventually built enough mass to scour down into lower layers near or at the ground.

Mountain Weather



Today the Hutt Range saw NW severe gale winds, mostly sunny skies and temperatures hovering around 0C. Tomorrow severe gale NW winds are forecast to die out by afternoon, temperatures above freezing and high clouds.



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

Sliding Danger



Many surfaces are smooth and slick currently. Ice axes and crampons recommended.