

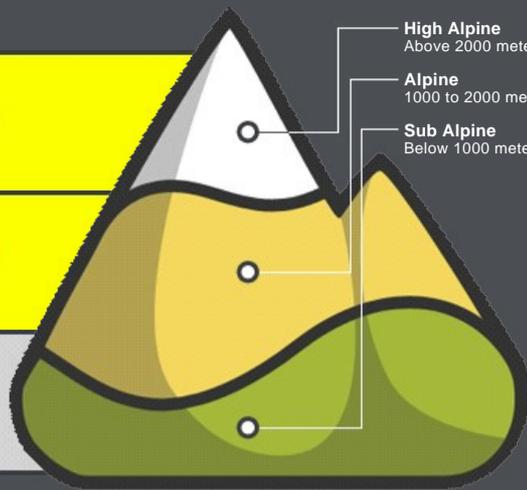
2.Moderate
Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.



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Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.



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

Avalanche Danger Scale

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



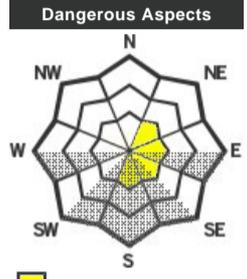
This 'Backcountry Avalanche Advisory' is provided as a public service by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. It is intended as an advisory only.

Primary Avalanche Danger

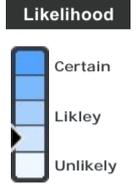
WIND SLAB



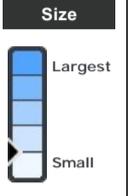
Dangerous Aspects



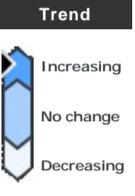
Likelihood



Size



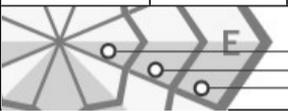
Trend



Time of day



2 Highest Danger Rating



High Alpine: Above 2000m
Alpine: 1000 to 2000m
Low Alpine: Below 1000m

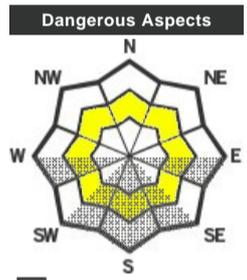
Description:
The danger rating is MODERATE for developing wind slab over the next 24hrs above 2000m. This new wind slab will have weak bonding at the new old snow interface. Existing wind slab has become stubborn and unreactive to heavy loads. A robust rain / rime crust formed overnight into this morning. This crust is 4cm thick in placers above 2000m elevations. This crust is breakable under foot in placers but not ski. Developing wind slab will form on East and South aspects. Expect wind slab to be reactive to the weight of a single person.

Secondary Avalanche Danger

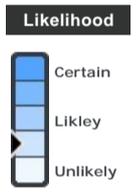
LOOSE WET



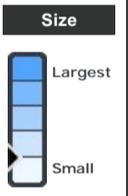
Dangerous Aspects



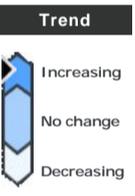
Likelihood



Size



Trend



Time of day



2 Highest Danger Rating



High Alpine: Above 2000m
Alpine: 1000 to 2000m
Low Alpine: Below 1000m

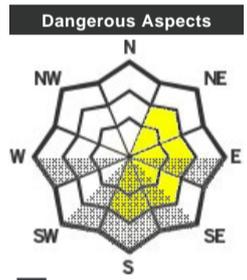
Description:
There is a MODERATE avalanche concern for a wet loose activity below 2000m. Showers with rain developing this evening will weaken surface structure below 2000m. Areas of primary concern are steep unsupported slopes that have loss surface cohesion. Watch for deep foot and ski penetration as signs of weakening surface structure. Expect loose wet avalanches to be in the size 1 to 1.5 range. Even smaller avalanches can have unfortunate outcomes if run outs have nasty terrain traps i.e. cliff bands, Rocks, gullies and benchers. Think if this slope avalanches where I am likely to end up.

Tertiary Avalanche Danger

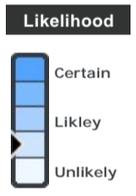
CORNICE FALL



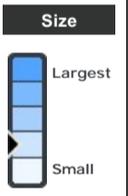
Dangerous Aspects



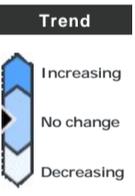
Likelihood



Size



Trend



Time of day



2 Highest Danger Rating



High Alpine: Above 2000m
Alpine: 1000 to 2000m
Low Alpine: Below 1000m

Description:
There is a MODERATE danger for Cornice Fall on the highlighted aspects above 1700m. Large and unsupported cornice has developed over the past several days. Increasing in strength but has proven very touchy and sensitive over the past few days. Be aware the cornice may fracture well back from its edge. Stay well clear of the hazard. Poor visibility will make managing this hazard very difficult.

Current Snowpack Conditions



A robust rain crust formed over night and this morning. This crust is up to 4cm thick at 2400m and around 2cm at 2000m. This has had a dramatic effect on the snowpack stability in a positive direction. This has added structure and strength limiting any influence that pre-existing weaknesses have on stability. Snow temperatures are moderate and are showing isothermal character in the top 40cm.

Recent Avalanche Activity



Natural size 2 x 2 at Whakapapa 36hrs old at least. Some small loose wet activity also reported from Whakapapa. Testing at Turoa with large loads resulted in black holes. Existing Turoa wind slab stubborn and unreactive.

Mountain Weather



The Tasman Sea has fronts and lows all lining up New Zealand over the next few days. Cloud with rain developing overnight snow to 1800m. Winds will be from the West rising to gale by evening. Freezing level around 2200m before falling to 2000m over the next 24hrs before rising again tomorrow afternoon.



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

Sliding Danger



Rain crust has made surface conditions lethal above 2000m. Surface is hard and unforgiving. Recommend ice axe and crampons with a strong technical understanding in their use.