

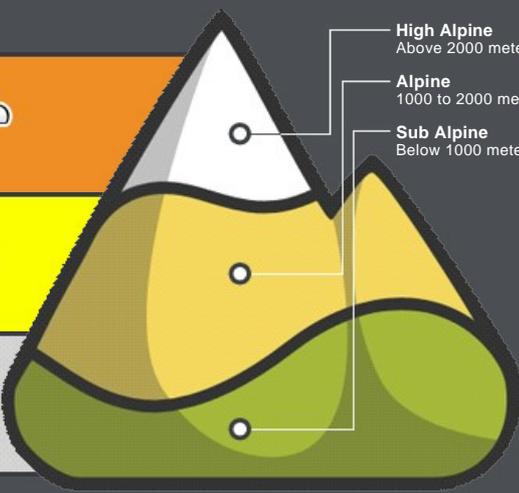
3.Considerable
Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.



2.Moderate
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



MS OUTDOOR SAFETY

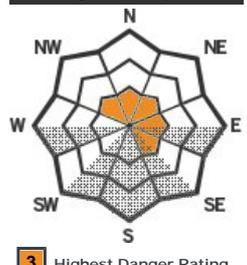
This 'Backcountry Avalanche Advisory' is provided as a public service by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. It is intended as an advisory only.

Primary Avalanche Danger



WIND SLAB

Dangerous Aspects



3 Highest Danger Rating

Likelihood

Certain
Likely
Unlikely

Size

Largest
Small

Trend

Increasing
No change
Decreasing

Time of day



All day

Description:
The danger rating is CONSIDERABLE for wind slab up to 60cm to 70cm in placers mostly in the North West area of forecast region. This wind slab has shown to be stubborn needing heavy loads to trigger. The problem is when this wind slab fails it is stepping down and triggering a persistent slab. That's when things get interesting resulting in large avalanches. These events have occurred in areas with specific terrain features and aspects of North East and North. Unlikely to be triggered by light loads however weighted natural triggers are possible setting in place a chain reaction. Forethought and route planning advised when traveling in the TNP backcountry at present.

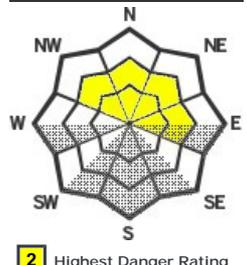


Secondary Avalanche Danger



LOOSE WET

Dangerous Aspects



2 Highest Danger Rating

Likelihood

Certain
Likely
Unlikely

Size

Largest
Small

Trend

Increasing
No change
Decreasing

Time of day



9am - 5pm

Description:
A MODERATE danger rating is in place for Loose Wet avalanche activity above 1600m. Lower elevations have not received a deep penetrating refreeze for some time. This makes the snowpack susceptible to additional heat from direct solar impuete. North facing aspects will become weak at the surface as the day progresses. Take care on steep unsupported slopes with deep boot / Ski penetration as snowpack surface structure becomes compromised. Watch for pin wheeling or roller balling as these are signs of surface instability's developing.



Current Snowpack Conditions



The region has a varied and complex snowpack at present. Wind slab over persistent slab made up of un-cohesive melt forms. The snowpack in the South West area is displaying signs of consolidation and strengthening. Testing with explosives at Turoa resulted in Black holes. A whole different story over at Whakapapa with large results reported. Multiple water fall holes are open and dangerous currently. Extreme care advised when in gullies and drainages.

Recent Avalanche Activity



Multiple large explosive trigger avalanches reported from Whakapapa ski patrol. These events were in the size 3 and 2 range. Big enough to bury and destroy a car. Some old evidence (debris) observed around Turoa 48hrs old. Natural events on the smaller side of things 1 and smaller

Mountain Weather



A ridge of high pressure affects the region at present. Fine and clear conditions with cloud developing tomorrow morning with light rain snow in the afternoon. Winds start out light Westerlies and increase as the day progresses. Freezing level rising to around 3000m.



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

Sliding Danger



Carry an ice and crampons during backcountry travel within the TNP. Always expect icy conditions on exposed slopes or after a clear night.