

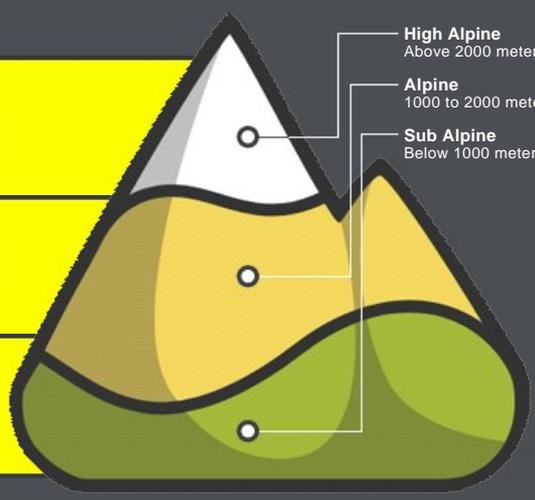
2.Moderate
Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.



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Avalanche Danger Scale

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



MS
OUTDOOR SAFETY

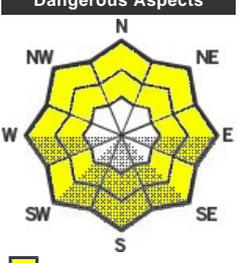
This 'Backcountry Avalanche Advisory' is provided as a public service by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. It is intended as an advisory only.

Primary Avalanche Danger



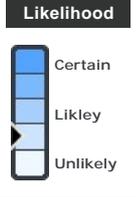
LOOSE WET

Dangerous Aspects

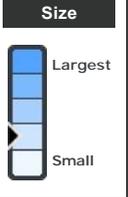


2 Highest Danger Rating

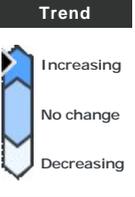
Likelihood



Size



Trend



Time of day



All day

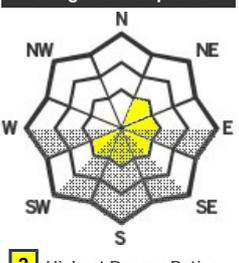
Description:
Large amounts of new snow have been transported to eastern aspects and will get saturated at lower elevations below 2000m during Thursday. This will form loose wet avalanches on all aspects below 2000m. Wet slab snow avalanches on lower elevations where the snow overlies steep tussock country are also possible on North eastern aspects.

Secondary Avalanche Danger



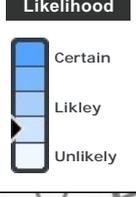
WIND SLAB

Dangerous Aspects

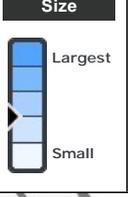


2 Highest Danger Rating

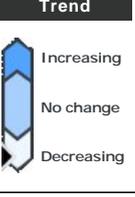
Likelihood



Size



Trend



Time of day



All day

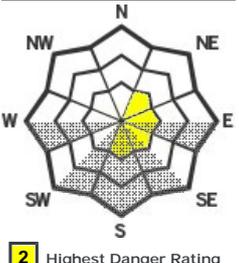
Description:
Up to 100cm of new snow has fallen with strong winds from the westerly quarter. More snow is forecasted. This has formed wind slab above 1400m due to strong westerly winds. Avoid aspects lee to the westerly quarter at and about ridge crest and exercise care elsewhere. This is likely to be isolated to very steep east facing aspects at upper elevations.

Tertiary Avalanche Danger



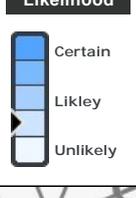
PERSISTENT SLAB

Dangerous Aspects

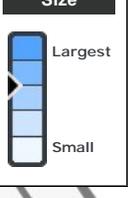


2 Highest Danger Rating

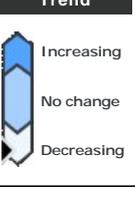
Likelihood



Size



Trend



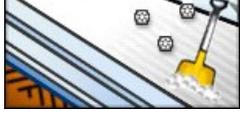
Time of day



All day

Description:
The lingering persistent weakness evident for much of August may become again become problematic. Large destructive avalanches have occurred during the weekend and are still possible on south and eastern facing slopes due to large amounts of new snow being transported to these aspects.

Current Snowpack Conditions



Large amounts of new snow have fallen in the park with estimated 100 to 120 cm in the west and 60 to 80 cm in the east. This has been associated with very strong westerly winds causing large wind deposited in upper east facing start zones in excess of 2.5 metres. As shown above this has caused the third large avalanche cycle where the snowpack is able to fail in old snow. There are evident weaknesses in the new snow that is expected to stabilise quickly. There are weak layers in the old snow STILL! These are now somewhat stronger than in August but have just produced a few VERY large avalanches. Most concerning is a small weak layer below a thin ice crust at the top of the old snow pack. This weakness will produce consistent failure using a number of shear tests and may continue to be problematic. The snow pack is going to glide off the tussocks at lower elevations when air temperatures are warm. A number of complex avalanche problems still exist so please take care.

Recent Avalanche Activity



During flight of the park today the following activity was seen. Multiple large wind slab avalanches up to class 3 mostly on eastern aspects with the odd one on southern aspects. A small number of very large avalanches up to class 4 on eastern aspects where evidently. These avalanches have evidently been caused by failure within the old snow. Large propegating over terrain features with lumping debris! Scary! The above will have happened on Saturday. There was some loose wet snow activity on solar aspects today as well as some large glide cracks on north eastern aspects just above bush line during Monday.

Mountain Weather



Continued showers and strong northwest winds. Freezing level rising from 2200m to 3000m by Thursday. Northwesterly winds becoming gale force by the afternoon.



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