

3.Considerable
Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.

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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

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

Description:
Gale N/NW winds will have created widespread slab about many slopes and features from S through to NE as the mountain wind swirls through terrain. As the next front crosses the area the danger will spike on these aspects with the onset of precipitation.

Secondary Avalanche Danger

LOOSE WET

Dangerous Aspects

3 Highest Danger Rating

Likelihood

Certain
Likely
Unlikely

Size

Largest
Small

Trend

Increasing
No change
Decreasing

Time of day

All day

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

Description:
With high elevation rain expected over the next 24 hours, there will be a cycle of loose wet avalanching as the upper pack becomes saturated. This danger will be most pronounced in the north and west of the region where the most new snow was received from last weeks big westerly storm.

Current Snowpack Conditions

Warm NW winds are hammering away at the Two Thumbs snowpack leaving a variable mix of exposed crust, stiff wind transported snow and moist spring conditions. Areas of wind slab will be found lee to the NW gales above 2000m, but areas of wind effect will be found on virtually all slopes. Recent snowfalls have largely been ironed out by the current warmth and wind. Heavy precipitation is forecast on the Divide over the next 24 hours, some of this will spill over into the Two Thumbs mainly affecting the north and west of the region. Initially, the snow level will be above 2000m, but may lower to about 1600m through Friday.

Recent Avalanche Activity

No recent avalanching reported. Natural avalanches are likely to have occurred in the Two Thumbs area and close to the Divide late last week and early weekend. At Roundhill on Sunday, tests with explosives, including on Eastern aspects at the back of the Richmond range yielded no results.

Mountain Weather

Gale N/NW winds at ridgeline through to Friday, then easing and tending SW. 10 to 60mm of precipitation expected, weighted toward the north and west. The snow level will be high for the bulk of the precip but lowers over Friday.

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