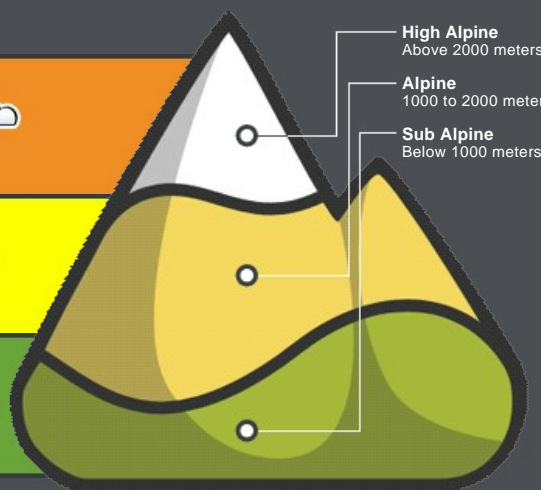


3. Considerable
Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.

2. Moderate
Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.

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



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:

We have an over lapping danger from persistent slab and windslab avalanching today. The danger from persistent slab is limited to the SE1/4 above about 1800m and results from a buried layer of facets and surface hoar that last saw the light of day on the 11th. The danger from windslab is more widespread with regard to aspect but is unlikely to be found below 1800m. Windslab size and potential is greater towards the divide, persistent slab is more likely further east. More investigation is needed to define these dangers , so a cautious investigative approach to travel is advised .

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

10am - 3pm

Description:

The sun is starting to come out and warm things up, loose wet slides could occur on steep solar aspects as a result, at higher elevations when warmth destabilises the new snow, or lower down where human triggered events in wet snow on steep terrain will be possible.

Current Snowpack Conditions

A very cold storm 4 days back dropped up to 60 cms of wind drifted snow on sheltered slopes with windward S and E facing terrain getting 15 to 20 cms. This happy event was followed by the descent of a rather wet blanket over the region yesterday that saw some rain as high as 1900m before things cooled off to leave about 25 cms of new snow up on the Tasman neve and 4cms at mueller hut. Little to no rain or snow will have fallen at the eastern edge of the region. Windslab will be found on S and E aspects above about 1800m especially up near the divide. A previous surface layer of weak faceted snow buried on the 11th now lies up to 40cms down in the snowpack. This layer has proved to be highly reactive, it is limited to the SE1/4 or other cold shady slopes.

Recent Avalanche Activity

A few storm slab avalanches to size 2 ran during the last storm around the 13th July.
A snowboarder triggered a slab, size 2 on a SE aspect at 2100m in the Gammack range Friday.
Size 1 loose snow avalanches ran on solar aspects in fine weather on Saturday.
Rain triggered loose wet slides up to size 2 ran on Sunday.
No Obs available at higher elevations today but at least some slab activity will have occurred up around the divide.

Mountain Weather

Misty cloudy weather slowly clearing this morning. It's calm in the valley but N or NW winds are blowing across the tops.

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