

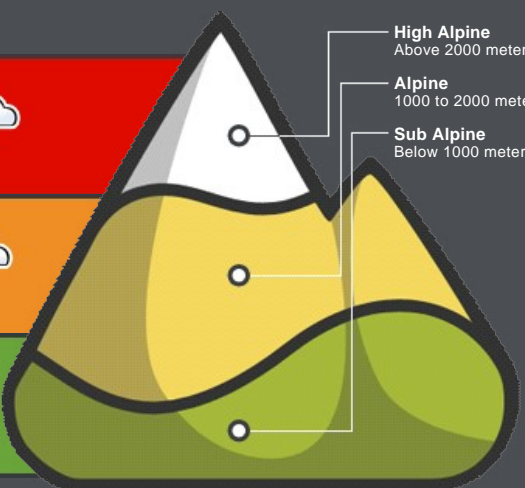
4.High
Very dangerous, travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.



3.Considerable
Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.



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

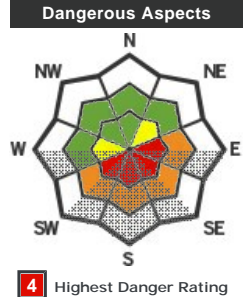
This 'Backcountry Avalanche Advisory' is provided as a public service by the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Inc. It is intended as an advisory only.

Primary Avalanche Danger



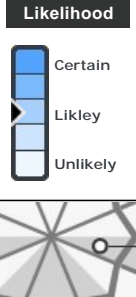
WIND SLAB

Dangerous Aspects

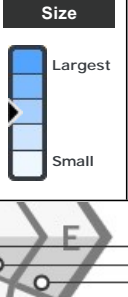


4 Highest Danger Rating


Likelihood



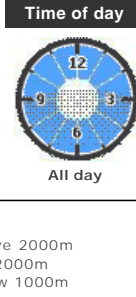
Size



Trend




Time of day




All day

Description:
The danger of windslab avalanching is growing through Thursday and will reach high overnight as precipitation intensifies. Initially, the danger will be restricted to higher elevations above 2000m on and about aspects facing SW through S, SE and E, but will lower to 1500m through Friday as temperatures cool. By lunchtime Friday avalanching to valley floor on the Divide is possible.



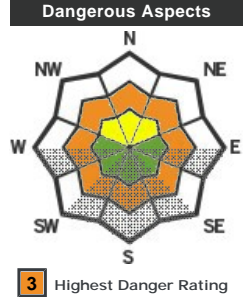
High Alpine: Above 2000m
Alpine: 1000 to 2000m
Low Alpine: Below 1000m

Secondary Avalanche Danger



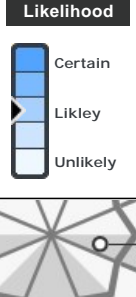
WET SLAB

Dangerous Aspects

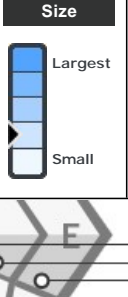


3 Highest Danger Rating


Likelihood




Size



Trend




Time of day




All day

Description:
Warming and incoming rain will lead to a cycle of loose wet and wetslab avalanching between 1000 and 2000m. Avoid steep gullies at low elevations, as these will direct and entrain snow sliding off from above.




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

Current Snowpack Conditions




Warm NW winds and high freezing level are quickly transforming the recent low elevation snowfall. Widespread wind effect will be the dominant theme, with windward aspects scoured out to crusts while windslab will be found on and about S and E aspects above about 1700m. Solar slopes will be undergoing transformation to spring corn as the recent heavy snowfall settles out and forecast heavy rain expected below about 2000m will expedite that process. As the next front pushes on expect the avalanche danger to rapidly rise, especially about the Divide where upwards of 150mm+ is expected over the next 24 hours.

Recent Avalanche Activity




Several slabs were observed from the village Thursday morning after Wednesday's weak front. Most were in the size 2 range, on S/SE aspects and between 1800 and 2200m.

Mountain Weather



Up to about 200mm of rain is forecast on the Divide through to late Friday, with a great deal of it coming in with a freezing level above 2000m.



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