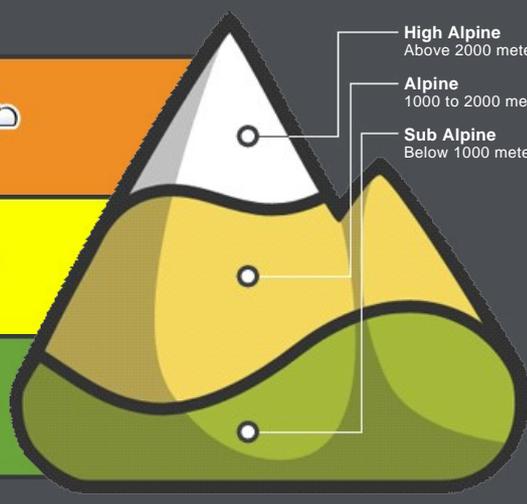


3.Considerable
Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.

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



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

Dangerous Aspects

Likelihood

Certain
Likely
Unlikely

Size

Largest
Small

Trend

Increasing
No change
Decreasing

Time of day

All day

3 Highest Danger Rating

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

Description:
Below the new snow line the snow will be getting saturated with the rain and becoming mostly isothermic ("turning to slush"). As the sun comes out tomorrow and with new snow from the last few days expect loose wet avalanches out of steep terrain. Although narrow in width they can often run to low levels as the gather up (entrain) more snow during their flow. Stay away from confined gullies and runout zones.

Secondary Avalanche Danger

Dangerous Aspects

Likelihood

Certain
Likely
Unlikely

Size

Largest
Small

Trend

Increasing
No change
Decreasing

Time of day

All day

2 Highest Danger Rating

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

Description:
Snow and changing winds and freezing levels have made for variable conditions in the Backcountry. The last winds today were from the SW and Moderate causing the most recent loading pattern. Over the last week the winds have loaded from almost every direction, thus investigation of the snowpack is required if in the backcountry in the next few days.

Current Snowpack Conditions

Another dusting of new snow from the SW today overlies 20-40cm of new snow that fell above 1800m near the Divide and in Eastern ranges earlier in the week. This overlays a previously wind-scoured surface but with plenty of layers still within the snowpack, including significant patches of graupel and lots of wet grains. At lower elevations the snowpack is wet. Investigation of the local layers when heading out again is recommended.

Recent Avalanche Activity

No observations reported.

Mountain Weather

Clearing with a nice day tomorrow, NW picking up Friday and more precipitation over the weekend. Freezing level to 2200m tomorrow dropping again over the weekend.

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