# **NZ Avalanche Advisory by the Mountain Safety Council**





# **Aoraki/Mt Cook**

4 High

A series of cold fronts are moving across the park accompanied by strong to gale force winds over the next 48 hrs. Visibility will be reduced and total snowfall amounts could reach over a 100cm at Tasman Saddle. Windslab will be building and if triggered could easily step down through the weaker layers lower in the pack. Snowfall amounts will be less towards the east.

Backcountry travel is not advised closer to the divide. Further to the east if you are travelling, approach all large terrain features, shallow snowpack regions with caution. Confine your objectives to lower angle slopes, do not stop under large avalanche pathways. Avoid traveling or skiing on areas where windslab is present.

### Issued

Saturday 12th August 2023 13:06

### Valid until

Monday 14th August 2023 13:06

## **High Alpine**

Above 2000 meters





### 4 High

Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.

## **Alpine**

1500 - 2000 meters





#### 3 Considerable

Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.

## **Sub Alpine**

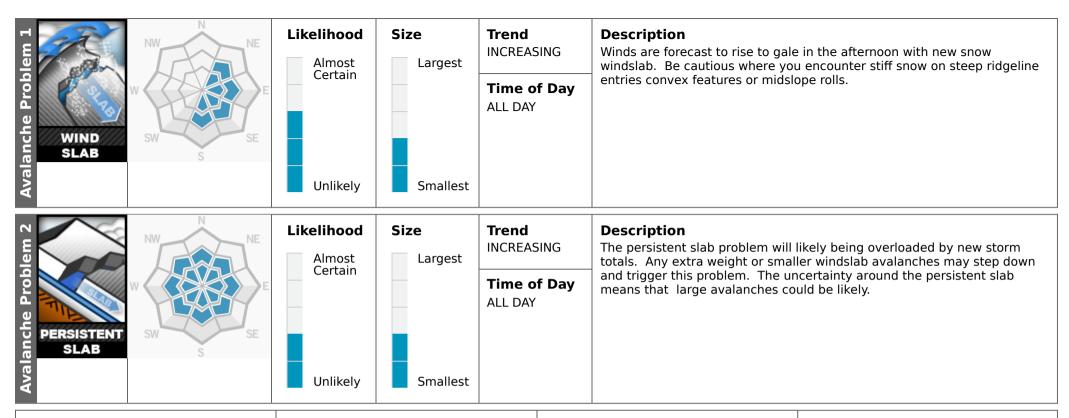
Below 1500 meters





### 1 Low

Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.





### Recent Avalanche Activity

Observations have been limited due to weather and a lack of information from the field. A cycle of natural avalanching is expected to occur during the current storm cycle.



### Current Snowpack Conditions

New snowfall

amounts are forecast to be over 100cm at Tasman Saddle from Sunday to early Tuesday morning

10cm snow from the 9th overlies 20-40cm of stiff layers of old windslab, and a mix of rime or raincrusts present up to about 2300m. In shallow snowpack areas two facet layers are present in the midpack throughout the park. The Stiff layering above are generally bridging the lower weaknesses in many places.



### Mountain Weather

Cloudy with occasional rain.

becoming persistent and heavier this afternoon. Snow to 1200 metres, lowering to 1000 metres this evening.



## **Sliding Danger**

#### **WIND AT 1000 METRES**

North to northwesterly 40 km/h.

#### **WIND AT 2000 METRES**

Northwesterly 50 km/h, rising to gale 65 km/h this afternoon.

#### **WIND AT 3000 METRES**

Northwesterly 40 km/h, rising to gale 75 km/h this afternoon.

#### FREEZING LEVEL

1500 metres, lowering to 1000 metres late evening.