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





Poor weather is forecast over Monday and Tuesday increasing the avalanche risk to High.

Strong winds, heavy snow, poor visibility and natural avalanches will be likely.

Back country travel is not advised. Stay out of the hills and let the storm do its thing.

#### Issued

Sunday 13th August 2023 20:15

#### Valid until

SLAB

Tuesday 15th August 2023 20:15

# **High Alpine**

Above 2000 meters



#### 4 High

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

#### **Alpine**

1500 - 2000 meters





### 4 High

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

# Sub Alpine

Below 1500 meters

**Smallest** 

Unlikely

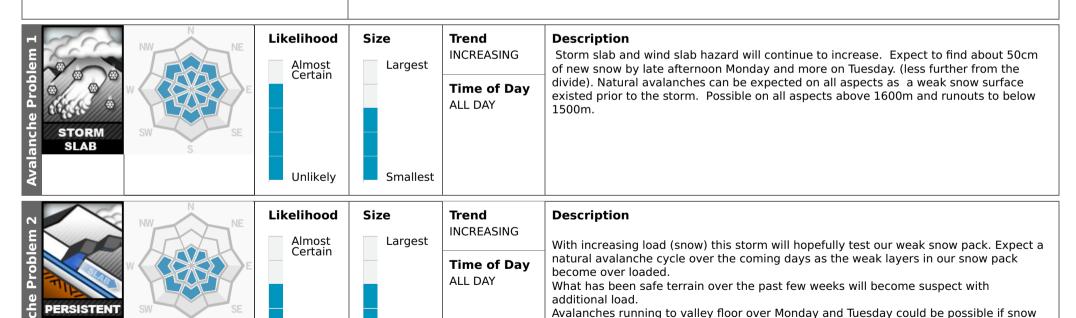




#### Moderate

fall totals are high enough.

Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.





# Recent Avalanche Activity

No new avalanche activity for a since the

6th August. Expect natural avalanche activity to increase in the coming days with forecasted snow.



#### Current Snowpack Conditions

Strong north west winds and heavy snow

to about 500m will persist over Monday and Tuesday. This will likely have a poor initial bond to the existing snow surface. Previously a couple of cm of snow fell on the 9th, in places this fell on surface hoar and over a slick crust. This crust is supportive in some places and very thin in others.

The snow pack is slowly gaining some strength at higher elevations, although weak sugary crystals and thin crusts still persist in the mid and low snow pack. Crusts near the surface are supportive to skis but not foot. This weak snow pack has between 20cm to 100cm of dense snow on top in some places lee to west and south west winds.

Prior to the current storm the surface has been stripped back to early season crusts around exposed features.



# **Mountain Weather**

Periods of snow, possibly heavy, falling as rain below 300

metres, then lifting to 500 metres in the evening. A risk of thunderstorms and hail.



## **Sliding Danger**

Carrying crampons, ice axe and ski crampons is advised.

Many west and south facing aspects have been stripped back to slick ice.

WIND AT 1000 METRES NORTHWESTERLY 40 KM/H

WIND AT 2000 METRES NORTHWESTERLY 45 KM/H, RISING TO GALE 65 KM/H FOR A TIME LATE MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON.

WIND AT 3000 METRES NORTHWESTERLY GALE 70 KM/H.

FREEZING LEVEL 600 METRES, LIFTING TO 800 METRES IN THE EVENING.