NZ Avalanche Advisory by the Mountain Safety Council





A substantial amount of new snow is likely along the Divide. Natural avalanche activity is probable. Back country travel is not recommended in the West on Tuesday. New snow totals will be less further East. Despite this, conditions remain challenging. The underlying snow pack is thin and weak (PWL) in places. Careful terrain selection and a cautious approach will be required. A day for moderate angled, wide open slopes.

Issued

Tuesday 15th August 2023 5:26

Valid until

Wednesday 16th August 2023 5:26

High Alpine

Above 1800 meters



4 High

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

Alpine

1200 - 1800 meters



3 Considerable

Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.

Sub Alpine

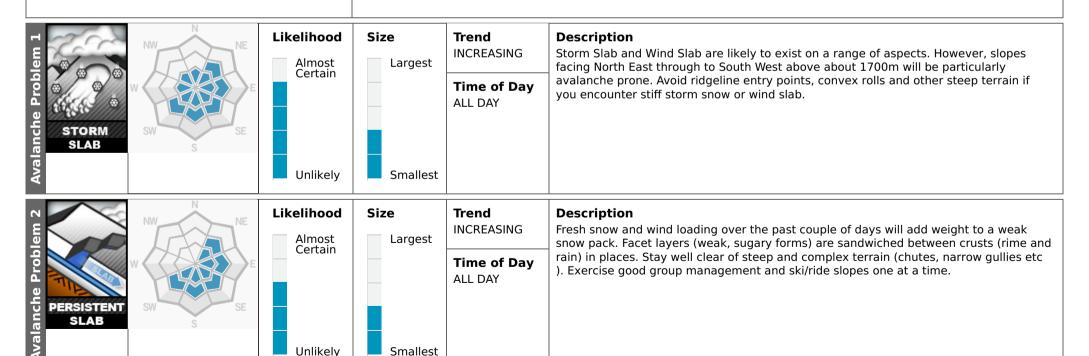
Below 1200 meters





2 Moderate

Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features.





Recent Avalanche Activity

Periods of poor visibility have

restricted observations over the past couple of days. Reported 6/8 a skier remote Size 2.5 on (PWL) - Towers Ridge, Aspect - East , Elevation 1850. Reported 4/8 a helicopter landing produced a Size 1.5 slide on (PWL) - Aspect - South, Elevation 1900m. Please submit an observation if you see evidence of avalanche activity - all information is helpful.



Current Snowpack Conditions

New snow and wind loading over the past

48 hours. In certain areas, loading is likely on a pack which contains hidden weak layers (PWL). Facet layers (weak,sugary forms) sandwiched between crusts (rime and rain) are especially likely to be found on slopes facing East through to South above about 1700m. Buried Surface Hoar may exist in some cold, sheltered areas. Pockets of Depth Hoar have been identified on slopes facing East through to South at upper elevations. Prior to the most recent snow, melt/freeze crusts were widespread on solar (North facing) slopes.



Mountain Weather

A few showers falling as snow, down to 600m. Moderate

North/North West winds. Freezing level - 800m rising to 1000m.



Sliding Danger

You may encounter exposed icy crusts.
Carrying ski crampons

or crampons/ice axe is good idea.