













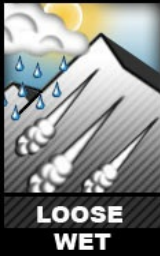
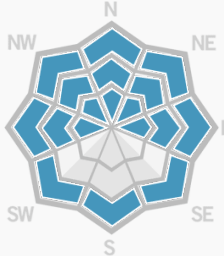






 <h2>Aoraki/Mt Cook</h2> <div>3 Considerable</div> <p>The persistent weak layers are still adjusting to the weight of the new snow. This layer is hard to predict and is waiting to catch out unsuspecting travellers. Watch out for thin snow where this layer could be triggered and pay attention to the slopes that are above and around you.</p> <p><b>Issued</b> Thursday 17th August 2023 18:02</p> <p><b>Valid until</b> Saturday 19th August 2023 18:02</p>	<b>High Alpine</b> Above 2000 meters	 	<div>3 Considerable</div> <p>Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.</p>
	<b>Alpine</b> 1500 - 2000 meters	 	<div>3 Considerable</div> <p>Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.</p>
	<b>Sub Alpine</b> Below 1500 meters	 	<div>1 Low</div> <p>Generally safe avalanche conditions. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.</p>

Avalanche Problem 1	 <p><b>PERSISTENT SLAB</b></p>		<b>Likelihood</b>  <p>Almost Certain</p> <p>Unlikely</p>	<b>Size</b>  <p>Largest</p> <p>Smallest</p>	<b>Trend</b> NOCHANGE	<b>Description</b> <p>The new snow has overloaded the persistent weak layer in some places but there are plenty of slopes with buried weak layers that could still slide. Anything that didn't slide during the last storm is probably quite difficult to trigger but if you hit a "sweet spot" in thin snow or around buried rocks you could bring slopes down from above or beside you.</p> <p>Look out for rocky areas, rollovers, the side of gullies, or anywhere else where the snow might be thinner which is where it can be easier to trigger from.</p>
					<b>Time of Day</b> ALL DAY	
Avalanche Problem 2	 <p><b>STORM SLAB</b></p>		<b>Likelihood</b>  <p>Almost Certain</p> <p>Unlikely</p>	<b>Size</b>  <p>Largest</p> <p>Smallest</p>	<b>Trend</b> INCREASING	<b>Description</b> <p>Right now the storm snow is generally well bonded but pockets of unstable snow could lurk in steep, loaded areas near ridgelines. This hazard is worse as you move closer to the Main Divide. Take care when entering slopes or approaching the top of a climb. This hazard will increase as the next storm rolls in on Friday night. With heavy snow and gale northerly winds forecast on Saturday, watch out for storm slabs building on southerly slopes.</p> <p>Storm snow avalanches have the potential to step down to the buried persistent weak layer which could result in unusually large avalanches.</p>
					<b>Time of Day</b> ALL DAY	

Avalanche Problem 3			<b>Likelihood</b>  Almost Certain Unlikely	<b>Size</b>  Largest Smallest	<b>Trend</b> DECREASING  <b>Time of Day</b> ALL DAY	<b>Description</b> Loose wet avalanches are possible on steep sunny slopes when the sun comes out. These will mostly be small but could step down to trigger storm slab and persistent weak layer avalanches. Even a small avalanche can hurt you if it sweeps you off a cliff or through rocks. Watch out for signs of rapid warming, for example rollerballing or sticky snow. On Saturday, heavy rain below 1000m will likely lead to small loose wet avalanches when it saturates the remaining snow at low elevations.
	<b>LOOSE WET</b>					

	<b>Recent Avalanche Activity</b> A size two skier triggered avalanche ran on the persistent weak layer on a southerly aspect in the Liebig range on the 17th of August. A substantial natural avalanche cycle ran during the storm from the 14th to the 16th of August, with storm slab and persistent weak layer avalanches up to size 2 and 3 observed throughout the Burnett, Gammack, and Liebig ranges. Whumpfung and slope settlements were recorded in the Ben Ohaus. Large avalanches have run along the south-easterly side of the main Divide. Small loose wet sluffs were seen in a range of locations running out of steep rocky terrain on sunny slopes on the afternoon of the 17th of August.		<b>Current Snowpack Conditions</b> An estimated 100cm of new snow fell during storm that ran from the 1th to the 16th of August. Snowfall totals taper across the forecast area, with around 40-50cm in the Liebig's and northern Gammacks and 20-30cm of new snow in the southeast. On sheltered east facing slopes the wind has blown this snow into deeper drifts. This new snow has fallen on an unusually shallow snowpack, with two buried layers of weak, faceted crystals. Near the Divide these weak layers are around two meters deep. But in the Gamack and Burnett ranges they likely range from 30-100cm down. The depth and distribution of this layer varies a lot across the region. In some places it's deeply buried and hard to trigger, in other places it's waiting for a single skier to hit the sweet spot.		<b>Mountain Weather</b> Partly cloudy on Friday, with isolated showers developing Friday night and building to heavy rain on Saturday. Moderate westerlies turning northerly on Friday evening and building to gale on Saturday. Free air freezing level 1300m on Friday rising to 1600m on Saturday.		<b>Sliding Danger</b> Any previously slick surfaces are well covered by new snow.
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