Tongariro

4 High

Wet slab avalanches will become possible as the rain starts to impact the snowpack. A storm system affects the region and snowpack in the coming days. Alpine backcountry travel is not recommended.

Issued

Saturday 19th August 2023 16:44

Valid until

Sunday 20th August 2023 16:44

High Alpine Above 2300 meters	 	**4 High** Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.
Alpine 1800 - 2300 meters	 	**4 High** Very dangerous avalanche conditions. Travel in avalanche terrain not recommended.
Sub Alpine Below 1800 meters	 	**3 Considerable** Dangerous conditions, conservative decision making essential.

Avalanche Problem 1

Likelihood

Almost Certain

Unlikely

Size

Largest

Smallest

Trend

INCREASING

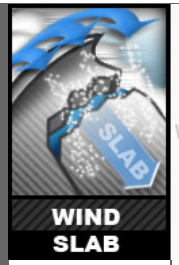
Time of Day

ALL DAY

Description

A wet slab avalanche will become possible as the rain starts to affect existing slabs. Once weight and saturation occur weaknesses may fail, resulting in large avalanches that may run long distances (km). These types of avalanches are often destructive due to water content and mass. Lots of cornices in the southwest areas, perfect primary triggers.

Avalanche Problem 2



Likelihood

Almost Certain

Unlikely

Size

Largest

Smallest

Trend

INCREASING

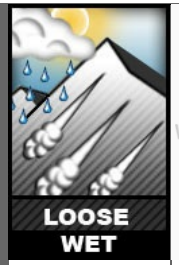
Time of Day

ALL DAY

Description

A developing wind slab problem is expected over the next 24hrs. Winds will start to transport loose snow to aspects facing mostly south. Initially, this avalanche hazard will form above 1800 metres, however, expecting this avalanche problem will creep down as the freezing level lowers and precipitation continues. This hazard will be specific to Ridgetop, Convexities, and steep unsupported slopes. The destructive size will be larger above 2300 metres.

Avalanche Problem 3



Likelihood

Almost Certain

Unlikely

Size

Largest

Smallest

Trend

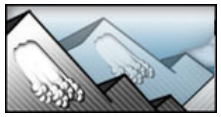
INCREASING

Time of Day

ALL DAY

Description

Loose wet avalanches are possible on steeper slopes. As rain starts to break down surface structures expect this hazard to increase.

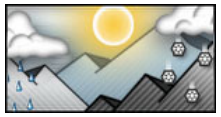


Recent Avalanche Activity

No avalanche activity has been reported or observed over the past 24hrs. The weather has been poor limiting movement and observations.

Current Snowpack Conditions

The snowpack was consolidating; however, weaknesses still exist and may become reactive once shocked. Considering this weekâ€™s snow accumulations and wind slab formation, not enough time has elapsed. A wide range of aspects have wind slabs of variable age and sensitivity. A cornice problem is present, mainly in the southwestern areas. After this weekâ€™s snowfall, the threshold has lowered to 1200 metres. Southwestern areas have slopes at the threshold of 1200 metres, slightly higher elsewhere.



Mountain Weather

There will be rain this afternoon with heavy falls in the evening. Snow will fall above 1900 meters. Tomorrow, there will be rain with heavy snow above 1600 meters, which will ease into showers in the evening. Strong to gale northerly winds will affect the southern areas (downslope). The freezing level will rise as high as 2300 meters before dropping late tomorrow to 1400 meters.

Sliding Danger

Recommend carrying crampons and an ice axe while in the alpine backcountry.