

Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 6:40 AM
Subject: CRH Avalanche Hazard 03/07/08

Good Morning,

Another 70 mm (nearly 3 inches) of rain in the last 24 hours puts us at 150 mm (6 inches) for this cycle of storms. This front will move ashore today, giving us another round of gusty winds and continued moisture. With little break the next low a very broad system, whose front trails off to southern California will begin affecting us on Saturday. This system will pack quite a bit of moisture also with its southern tilted front. Longer term, this pattern appears to be breaking down as the jet returns to a more zonal flow, this will allow southern and central Alaska to return to more normal temperatures.

Tried to catch a bit of a window yesterday to climb and dig a profile, managed to get up the mountain as the winds returned. With 80 mph winds the profile went out the window and the decent was interesting. We continue with high probability of mid size avalanches running to mid mountain. Larger avalanches are possible, but dependant on the actual snow line. With this much rain we will continue with the conservative hazard forecast of considerable.

Mike O'Leary

424-7758

253-7758 cell

Friday March 7, 2008

HIGHWAY

Current hazard; CONSIDERABLE

Avalanches are probable, but are expected to terminate above the highway.

HAZARD OUTLOOK; INCREASING

With little new snow occurring in the lower and mid track, the size of possible avalanches is not expected to change much this cycle. As rain continues the probability of avalanches will increase.

Backcountry Danger;

Lower Mountain; Considerable

Isothermal snow on steep slopes a hazard, tree wells, terrain traps on steep wooded slopes a concern, lower mt. avalanche tracks a hazard from upper mt. releases.

Mid Mountain; HIGH

Caution advised on all steep terrain, SW-NW aspects of most concern. Tracks of upper mt. avalanches of concern.

Upper Mountain; HIGH

Our last weather cycle contributed to very rapid cornice build out as well as deep deposition just under ridges on western aspects, with new deposition under a warming regime cornice falls triggering upper mt. releases are likely, human triggered avalanches likely. Stormy weather with heavy precipitation expected, this will contribute to increasing hazard.

Current avalanche activity is an important factor in avalanche forecasting. Please report all observed avalanche activity.

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Good Morning,

As this system trails off leaving us with 80mm of water and counting, a new larger version is approaching. The front off a 969mb low should reach us by tonight, the ridge to our east while drifting off will still produce a sharp pressure gradient between the two. We can expect even stronger winds and even larger amounts of moisture.

At this point we can expect wet avalanches off all steep slopes, for the highway the two areas of concern are the 5.5 mile path and the Murchison path. With no large avalanches out of the 5.5 mile this year and less snow in the track each day we continue with considerable hazard. Avalanches are expected, but due to their wet nature and terrain features in the track, are expected to terminate above the highway. With new loading continuing the hazard for the Murchison path is the same.

For the backcountry the danger ranges from considerable on steep lower elevation slopes to high on mid mountain and above.

Mike O'Leary
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Thursday March 6, 2008

HIGHWAY

Current hazard; CONSIDERABLE

Avalanches are probable, but are expected to terminate above the highway.

HAZARD OUTLOOK; INCREASING

With little new snow occurring in the lower and mid track, the size of possible avalanches is not expected to change much this cycle. As rain continues the probability of avalanches will increase.

Backcountry Danger;

Lower Mountain; Considerable

Isothermal snow on steep slopes a hazard, tree wells, terrain traps on steep wooded slopes a concern, lower mt. avalanche tracks a hazard from upper mt. releases.

Mid Mountain; HIGH

Caution advised on all steep terrain, SW-NW aspects of most concern. Tracks of upper mt. avalanches of concern.

Upper Mountain; HIGH

Our last weather cycle contributed to very rapid cornice build out as well as deep deposition just under ridges on western aspects, with new deposition under a warming regime cornice falls triggering upper mt. releases are likely, human triggered avalanches likely. Stormy weather with heavy precipitation expected, is contributing to increasing hazard.