

## (フィールドレポート February 12, 2025)

2月に入ってから、ほぼ連日雪の降る日が続いていて山のスノーコンディションは素晴らしく良い。ただやはり地球温暖化の影響を受けて日本周辺の海水温は高めで、降る雪質は本州程ではないが、水分量が多くいつもの真冬の雪質よりやや重めの日が多い。水分量が多いと日射の影響を受けやすくなり融雪進行が早まり、自重も増えるので条件が揃えば雪崩リスクも高まるので、いつものようにいつもとは少し違ったリスクアセスメントとマネジメントをするように心掛けている。

Since entering February, it has been snowing almost every day, and the snow conditions in the mountains are excellent. However, due to the impact of global warming, the sea surface temperature around Japan is higher than usual. While the snow quality is not as dry as it typically is in Honshu, the snow tends to have a higher moisture content, making it heavier than the usual mid-winter snow. With higher moisture content, snow is more susceptible to the effects of solar radiation, which leads to faster snowmelt and increases its weight. This can also heighten the risk of avalanches if conditions align. Therefore, I am being extra cautious in my risk assessment and management, keeping in mind that while it feels like the usual winter, there are subtle differences that require more attention.

ニセコエリアの山では大きな事故等は今のところ起こっていないが、他のエリアでは立ち木衝突による死亡事故、裏山に入って道迷いによる遭難救助要請等が多発している。安易に人のシュプールを追わないこと、焦って同時に滑走したり新雪を求めて山の奥に深入りしないこと！オリエンテーションを含めた自分の行動に責任を持つことをお勧めする。

So far, no major accidents have occurred in the Niseko area, but there have been many incidents in other areas, such as fatal collisions with trees and rescue calls due to getting lost in backcountry areas. I strongly recommend not following other people tracks blindly, avoiding the urge to ski at the same time as others, and not venturing too deep into the mountains in search of fresh snow. Always take responsibility for your actions, including orientation, and be aware of the risks.

1月中旬から約10日間続いた春の天気によって融雪が進んだために、沢底のスノーブリッジは不安定になっているのと、標高約650m以下、特に南向き急斜面ではクラック（割れ目）や穴が開き始めていた。2月に入って雪の量は再び増えて、それらの問題は一見解消したように見えるが、降った新雪下に隠れただけで解消はされていないので用心を。常に用心を心掛けること。

Due to the spring-like weather that lasted for about 10 days in mid-January, snowmelt progressed, and snow bridges in the valleys have become unstable. Cracks and holes have started to form below around 650 meters, especially on south-facing steep slopes. While the snow volume has increased again since February, and these issues may seem to have been covered by the new snow, they have not been resolved. They are just hidden beneath the new layer of snow, so it important to stay cautious at all times.



それにしても、雪はここ数日素晴らしく良く深い！

That being said, the snow in the past few days has been wonderfully deep!