

(フィールドレポート January 9, 2026)

年明けから連日降雪の日が続いている。特に7日夜半と8日夜には両日ともに約40cm+の降雪があり、一晩でリセットがかかり両日ともにディープパウダーを満喫できている。



連日の降雪によって、標高800m以上はほぼ例年同様に近いこの時期の積雪状態に近づいてきているが、いまだに地形の凸凹だったり沢と尾根の地形は少し複雑である。

標高700mより下に関しては、スノーコンディションは良いが、いまだに雪は足りてなく複雑な地形に加えて笹や低灌木などのブッシュが雪面上及びそのすぐ下に隠れていて、引っかかると大きなケガに繋がるので注意が必要。雪がいいからと言って、何も考えないで突っ込まない方がいい！



沢も深く急で沢底は水の流れもあるので、ボトムにクリーク（小川）があれば、もう少し落としたい気持ちを抑えて、その上少なくとも 10m 手前で止まって、クリークを渡れるスノーブリッジの渡し方を考えること。沢底に落ちると重大な事故に繋がる可能性があるので、滑走時のマネージメントは慎重であるべき！昨日も上から止まらずにクリークに突っ込んで救急搬送される事故が起こっている。

漸くニセコらしい雪の降り方になってきてはいるが、レポート第一回目当初から書いているように、冬型が長く決まらず、発達しながら接近通過する低気圧に引っ張られて北から強い寒気が入り込んで雪が降るパターンが続いている。一時的に冬型になるが長く決まらないのと、寒気が入る前の低気圧が接近するタイミングで、いつもの冬の風向きとは違う南寄りの風雪があるため、予想外の斜面での雪崩リスクにも用心が必要になる。その例として、一昨日ヒラフキング第4リフト降り場上、山頂下のスキーコースに面する斜面で雪崩が起こっている。ここでの雪崩しかもスキー場コースに面した場所での雪崩の前例がなく、おそらくいつもとは違う南からの強風雪によって堆積した重いウィンドスラブ吹き溜まりが、自重に耐えきれず破断したものと思われる。はない！

いつもの冬とは違う気象状況、当然フィールドコンディション、スノーコンディションも違ってくるので、いつもこうだからといったような先入観を持たずに、雪がたくさん積もったからと一喜一憂しないで、コップの水を一杯飲んで、深呼吸して冷静な判断をしましょう。怖いこともあるけれど、山は美しく素晴らしい！



## **(Field Report – January 9, 2026)**

Since the beginning of the new year, snowfall has continued day after day. In particular, on the nights of the 7th and 8th, more than 40 cm of new snow fell on both nights. Each time, the terrain was completely reset overnight, allowing us to fully enjoy deep powder conditions on both days.

With the continuous snowfall, areas above 800 m in elevation are now approaching snow depths typical for this time of year. However, the terrain is still uneven in places, and gullies and ridgelines remain somewhat complex.

Below 700 m, snow conditions are good, but overall snow coverage is still insufficient. Combined with complex terrain, sasa grass and low shrubs are either exposed on the surface or hidden just beneath the snow. Catching one of these can easily lead to serious injuries, so extra caution is required. Just because the snow feels good doesn't mean you should charge in without thinking.

Gullies are deep and steep, and water is still flowing along the creek beds. If there is a creek at the bottom, resist the urge to ski just a little farther down. Stop at least 10 meters before the creek and take time to assess how and where to cross using a snow bridge. Falling into a gully can lead to severe accidents, so terrain management while skiing must be extremely cautious. In fact, just yesterday, an accident occurred in which a skier failed to stop from above, plunged into a creek, and had to be transported by ambulance.

At last, snowfall patterns are starting to feel more like a typical Niseko winter. However, as mentioned since the very first report, the classic winter pressure pattern has not remained stable for long periods. Instead, we continue to see strong cold air pulled in from the north by developing low-pressure systems as they approach and pass. Although winter patterns do establish temporarily, they do not persist, and when low-pressure systems approach before the cold air arrives, we experience southerly winds and snowfall—different from the usual winter wind direction. This creates the need to be alert for avalanche risks on unexpected slopes.

As an example, an avalanche occurred the day before yesterday on a slope above the Hirafu King No. 4 lift unloading area, facing a ski run just below the summit. There are no known precedents of avalanches at this location, especially one affecting a slope adjacent to a ski run. It is likely that heavy wind slabs deposited by unusually strong southerly winds overloaded the slope and failed under their own weight.

With weather patterns different from a typical winter, field and snow conditions naturally differ as well. Do not rely on assumptions like “it’s always like this.” Don’t get overly excited just because there is a lot of snow. Take a moment—drink a cup of water, take a deep breath, and make calm, rational decisions. There are things to be afraid of, but the mountains are also beautiful and truly magnificent.