

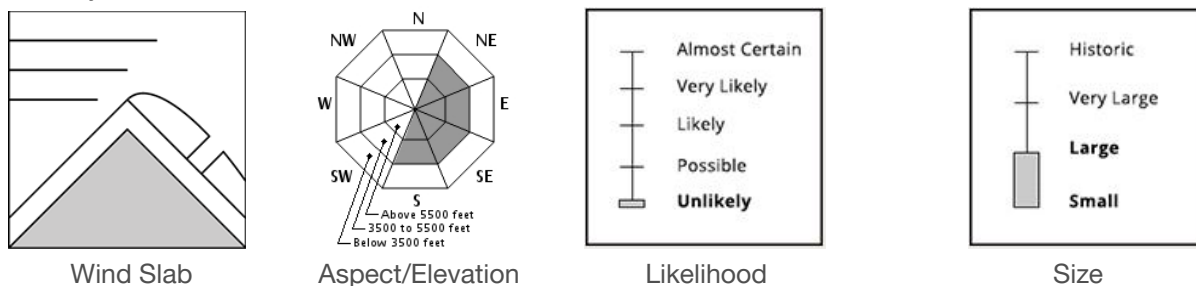
### The Bottom Line

Human triggered avalanches are unlikely but should still be a primary hazard on your radar today. Firm, large wind slabs, like those formed late last week, are a tricky avalanche problem as they generally display minimal signs of instability under your feet. Safe avalanche terrain practices like traveling one at a time and carrying your beacon, shovel, and probe are still advised. Remember that you use these practices for the “what if” scenario of an avalanche on a slope you’ve decided is reasonably stable. All forecast areas have **LOW** avalanche danger today. Continuing to respect avalanche terrain and remembering that Low does not mean no avalanche danger should combine well with favorable weather for a great day in the mountains.

### Mountain Weather

Summit wind under 20 mph yesterday should also be light through much of today, ultimately increasing late afternoon and tonight while blowing from the NW. Temperatures have risen a few degrees overnight, though valleys are colder than higher elevations currently, and will continue to rise to the upper teens F on the higher summits. Clear skies and no precipitation are forecast today. Tomorrow should bring similar temperatures, mostly cloudy skies, moderate wind speeds, and possibly a trace of snow by tomorrow night.

### Primary Avalanche Problem



Wind slabs formed from the extended period of wind following last week’s snow are generally firm in middle and upper elevations. Expect them to be unreactive to a human trigger, but look for exceptions to help guide your terrain choices. These slabs vary in size and are quite large in some terrain, particularly the Sluice and Lip of Tuckerman Ravine. This avalanche problem should be generally absent on the western half of the compass rose and at lower elevations.

### Snowpack Observations

At the tail end of and following last week’s snow storm, northwesterly summit wind held in the 70-90 mph range for three days. A few hours of recorded wind were near 100 mph, and only a few dipped below 70 mph in that 72 hour period. This sustained period of extreme wind speeds heavily affected our storm snow, resulting in several natural avalanche cycles. The aftermath is areas of smooth and hard (1F) wind slab, heavily wind textured snow that is also quite hard in many places, and scouring. Similar aspects and elevations throughout the terrain vary in current conditions, largely due to upwind fetch for wind loading of the storm snow or lack thereof. While stability tests will identify weak layers in the upper snowpack, it’s unlikely that your weight will be enough to trigger an avalanche in our hard wind slab today. Remember that conditions vary greatly through the range and look for exceptions to the Low avalanche danger.

Ryan Matz, Snow Ranger; USDA Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest; (603)466-2713 TTY (603)466-2858

**Please Remember:** Safe travel in avalanche terrain requires training and experience. This forecast is just one of many decision making tools. You control your own risk by choosing where, when, and how you travel. Understand that the avalanche danger may change when actual weather differs from the weather forecast. For more information contact the Forest Service Snow Rangers, the AMC at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, or the caretakers at Hermit Lake Shelters or at the Harvard Cabin.