

**The Bottom Line**

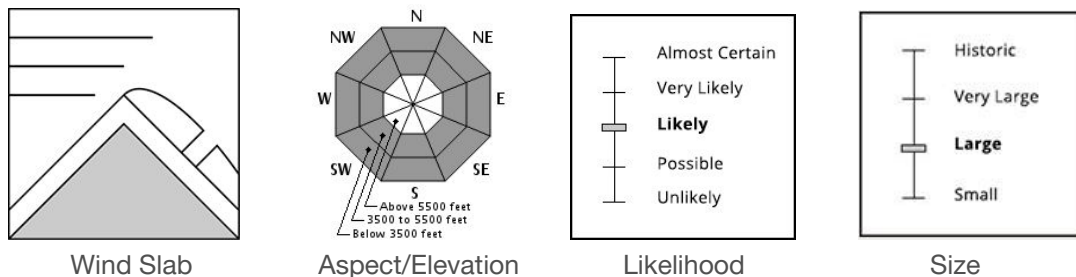
Increasing wind today will create very dangerous avalanche conditions. Wind slabs will build from the abundant recent snow accumulation that are likely to avalanche naturally. The SE half of the compass rose is likely to produce the largest avalanches today, but wind from nearly every direction in the past 24 hours means that choosing terrain to avoid wind slab avalanche danger today will be all but impossible. Avalanche danger will increase to **HIGH** today. Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended. The Southern gullies of Huntington Ravine, the Left side of Tuckerman Ravine, and elevations below 3500' are the exceptions but remain at **CONSIDERABLE** avalanche danger. Terrain lacking wind affected snow, like low elevations, will hold storm slabs which you are likely to trigger.

The USDA Forest Service Mount Washington Avalanche Center has issued a backcountry avalanche warning for the Presidential Range. Avalanche warning criteria may also be met in other areas outside those forecast by the avalanche center. This avalanche watch does not apply to operating ski areas. **Avalanche danger will increase through Monday, January 21, 2019, with very dangerous avalanche conditions on and below slopes steeper than 30 degrees.**

**Mountain Weather**

The recent snow storm totaled 13" at the Hermit Lake and Harvard Cabin snow plots and 12" at Gray Knob. After a cold start to the day on Sunday that produced lighter density snow, temperatures reached 25F on the summit yesterday afternoon, which in combination with warm air aloft allowed for a period of denser snow accumulation. Wind from the SE around 45 mph on the summit shifted W then NW overnight, bottoming out at 20 mph with a current speed of 28 mph. Today's key weather factor will be wind which is forecast to blow from the NNW and increase slowly to 70 mph with gusts to 90 mph by dark. We may receive another trace to one inch of snow accumulation as cloudy cover persists and temperatures will only rise a few degrees above the current -14.5F on the summit. Wind will continue to increase to sustained 100 mph speeds with stronger gusts by early tomorrow before dropping off slightly through the day. Skies should become clear with temperatures rebounding to the single digits above 0F by tomorrow afternoon.

**Primary Avalanche Problem**



Wind from the NNW forecast to increase through the day will build large unstable slabs from the recent storm snow. Expect new slabs to form on the SE half of the compass rose and be touchy to a human trigger. Additionally, reactive and small to large in size slabs formed from yesterday's wind direction (SE) make wind slabs a concern on all aspects and elevations above 3500' today. These windward slopes may become scoured by this evening, but hold unstable slabs this morning.

**Secondary Avalanche Problem**

Storm slab from our recent heavy snowfall exists anywhere in the terrain that you don't find wind slab. Human triggered avalanches remain likely in this reactive layer. The storm snow has an upside down character, with more dense and cohesive snow over less dense snow. This more dense snow showed an ability to propagate a crack a relatively long distance yesterday and result in avalanches entraining all storm snow.

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**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.