

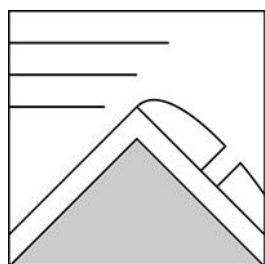
The Bottom Line

Low density snow yesterday has been affected by NW wind overnight which has produced relatively small new slabs that are possible to human trigger. In contrast, older wind slabs remain which are unlikely to trigger but would produce large avalanches. Continue to use safe avalanche terrain travel practices, bring your avalanche rescue gear and a good partner or two, and respect large avalanche paths and high consequence terrain. All forecast areas have **MODERATE** avalanche danger today.

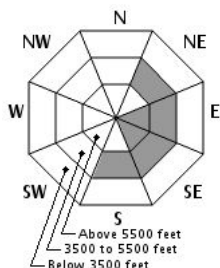
Mountain Weather

Approximately 3 inches of new snow fell in our terrain yesterday with measured density as low as 3.7%. Temperatures dropped in the late afternoon to bottom out at -15F on the summit overnight while NW wind increased to the current 70-80 mph range with stronger gusts. Wind should hold through the day and decrease slightly by tomorrow morning. Skies will be mostly clear with no precipitation expected. A high temperature just below 0F is forecast for the summit. Tomorrow should trend warmer, less windy, and increasingly cloudy as a system bringing another shot of snow and possibly mixed precipitation arrives by evening.

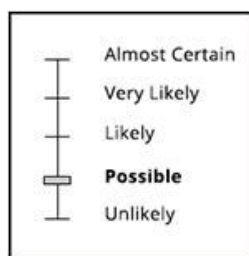
Primary Avalanche Problem



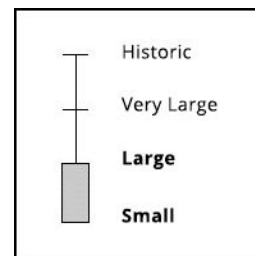
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Yesterday's low density snow has been easily transported by NW winds. You can expect to find new wind slab that may visually appear quite similar to the older surface slabs formed late last week. We expect scouring to these older slabs has also occurred. The new wind slab should be firm and stubborn, with softer and reactive pockets in wind sheltered terrain. These new slabs are most likely to exist in the middle to lower portions of terrain in the ravines, on the east side of the range. The large older wind slabs are becoming unreactive though still worth considering as a low probability, high consequence avalanche problem.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

A melt freeze crust formed February 8th has been mostly covered by layers of wind slabs formed in the past week, with a few areas wind scoured to this crust. Stability concerns are limited to snow above this robust crust. The 12 hours of summit wind in the 70-80 mph range will have easily transported yesterday's low density snow, scouring it from windward aspects and upper start zones. The new slabs built from this snow should be firm and supportable under skis or board, with a few softer exceptions in sheltered terrain. On the surface, this layer may look and feel similarly to the older wind slabs which will also be present at the surface. These older layers above the crust are unlikely to produce an avalanche, but a strong over weak structure has been observed in these layers and should keep the possibility of large avalanches on your radar. Realize that the newer wind slabs will be more likely to human trigger, which will make applying your snowpack observations to anywhere but the snow under your feet fairly difficult today. Low elevations with significantly less wind affect may provide the most enjoyable conditions.

Join us for an evening of avalanche awareness in North Conway on Thursday! Details on our website events page.

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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.