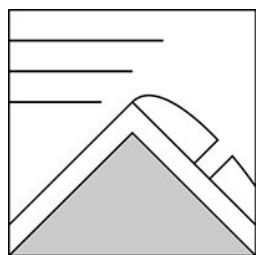


**The Bottom Line**

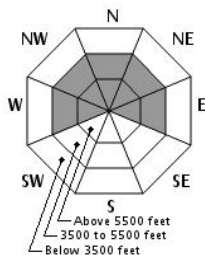
Snow falling today will combine with wind to create new unstable slabs and increasing avalanche danger through today and tonight. Wind from the south today will load terrain on the northern half of the compass rose. After dark, wind shifting to the west will transport snow from our largest fetch zones into easterly terrain and continue to enlarge new slabs. Watch for quickly developing wind slabs today and realize that the size of new wind slabs depends on the amount of snow we actually receive.. Avalanche danger will rise to **MODERATE** today as human triggered avalanches in these growing slabs become possible. If you're in the mountains late today, be aware that a wind shift to W and increasing speeds may result in avalanche danger reaching **CONSIDERABLE** due to the increased chance of natural avalanches in wind loaded terrain.

**Mountain Weather**

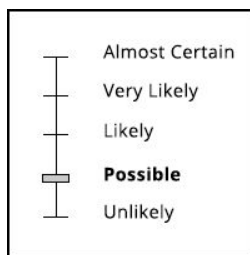
Temperatures slowly climbed to the upper teens F on the summit yesterday under clear skies and decreasing NW wind. New snow today should total 2-4 inches and fall on S wind that will increase this morning from under 30 mph to the 50-60 mph range. Snowfall may taper slightly after dark as wind ultimately shifts W and increases. A period of mixed precipitation, particularly sleet, may occur tonight though forecasts are trending towards all snow and totaling at least another inch. Consistently W wind around 70 mph is forecast tomorrow and we may receive an additional trace to 2" of snow.

**Primary Avalanche Problem**


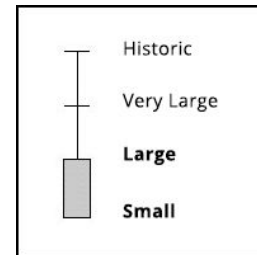
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

New snow on increasing southerly wind will build new wind slabs though the day that will become possible to human trigger as they grow in size. Expect the largest wind slabs to develop on northerly aspects but watch for cross loading to also build slabs on easterly and westerly aspects. The wind shift to W is forecast to occur around midnight tonight, but if you're out late today, watch for an earlier shift in wind and corresponding wind loading of easterly terrain from our large fetch zones. Additionally, a remote possibility does exist for an avalanche to entrain existing snow in isolated areas and contribute to overall size.

**Secondary Avalanche Problem**

Steep, wind sheltered terrain will be prone to dry loose sluffing as new snow accumulates today. While small in size, always remember that a small loose snow avalanche in the wrong place can knock you off your feet and be a big deal. Additionally, sluff tends to pile relatively low in terrain, especially below ice climbs, and ultimately helps to build cohesive slabs in these locations.

**Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion**

The wind slabs that formed over the past week have finally had time to gain stability; today's avalanche problem is primarily based on inbound snow and wind. In the past two days with many skiers and climbers in the terrain, just [one human triggered avalanche](#) has been reported. These older wind slabs do seem to have a firm over soft structure but have become largely unreactive to a human trigger. Today starts with low avalanche danger for most terrain. As new slabs build and avalanche danger increases today, it's important to remember that today's moderate avalanche danger rating is based fully on the forecast of incoming weather. Watch for snowfall totals and wind direction that differ from the forecast if you're playing in or around avalanche terrain today.

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.