

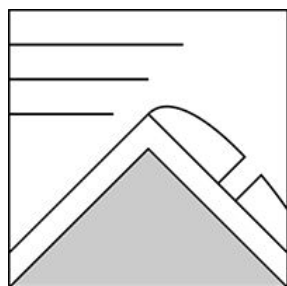
The Bottom Line

New snow and wind will build small wind slabs through the day today at mid and upper elevations. These wind slabs should remain unlikely for you to trigger in much of our terrain, but watch for these areas of new wind drifted snow to develop quickly with today's weather. The wet slab avalanche problem of the past several days remains relevant today but will gain great stability as our snowpack refreezes. All forecast areas except the Headwall of Tuckerman Ravine have **LOW** avalanche danger, with **MODERATE** avalanche danger in and below the Headwall area.

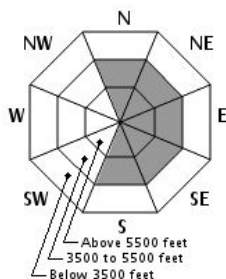
This morning, watch for rockfall and icefall that will become less likely as the refreeze occurs. This refreeze will make [long sliding falls](#) a key hazard that demands respect. If you plan to travel on a snow slope today, be sure that your crampon and ice axe skills are dialed. Take care to not fall as our snow becomes increasingly hard and slick through the day, knowing that self arrest is at best difficult on refrozen snow.

Mountain Weather

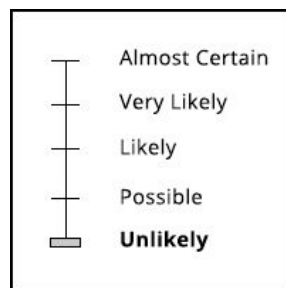
Below freezing temperatures are returning to our terrain, though elevations well below 3500' should hover right around 32F today. Summit temperatures will drop through today to 10F by dark and 0F by dawn tomorrow. This is a stark change from the past two days with high temperatures of 40F on the summit and close to 50F at our snow plots at 4000' in elevation. A trace to 2" of snow, mostly at high elevations, may fall today with a greater chance at another 2" or more tonight. Snowfall amounts are uncertain but should taper by tomorrow morning. Wind is currently near 80 mph from the W on the summit and is forecast to shift NW and peak at slightly higher speeds this evening before slackening slightly by tomorrow morning.

Primary Avalanche Problem


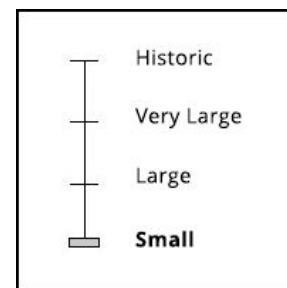
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

New snow today will be affected by W and NW wind. This wind slab problem does not exist this morning and will develop through today and more so tonight. Uncertainty in today's snowfall amount and timing lend uncertainty to the timing, size, and sensitivity to triggers of developing wind slabs today. Watch for these small slabs on isolated terrain features and elevated avalanche danger tomorrow.

Secondary Avalanche Problem

Our snowpack is refreezing slowly today, but large wet slab avalanches remain an unlikely though relevant avalanche problem this morning for middle and lower elevations. By late today or tonight, a solid refreeze at all elevations will stabilize our currently wet snowpack.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

The period of melt since Thursday morning comes to an end with a refreeze and increasing stability today. Our wet upper snowpack will refreeze through the day by elevation, with colder temperatures up high freezing the snow sooner than low elevations. We expect a full refreeze at low elevations to occur tonight, making both flotation and traction devices advisable today. Stability concerns are becoming limited to the new snow arriving today. New wind slabs may develop from the several inches of snowfall today and tonight, though we expect these to be isolated in distribution with hard crust remaining the dominant snow surface. Long sliding falls have again become the key hazard to recognize and manage on snow slopes.

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.