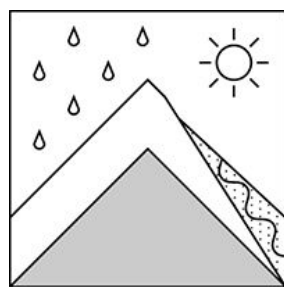


The Bottom Line

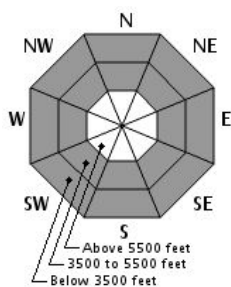
Warming temperatures through the day will make wet loose avalanches a relevant concern for those traveling on steep snow slopes. Wet loose avalanches, or sluffs, are expected to be small today but could still easily cause a fall. Watch for softening wet snow through the day as a sign that it may become possible for you to initiate a wet loose sluff. Avalanche danger is **LOW** for all forecast areas. Natural and human triggered avalanches are unlikely, but watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.

Mountain Weather

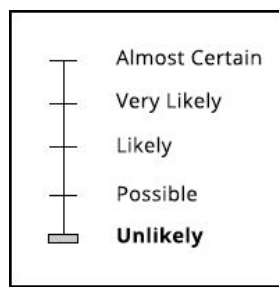
High temperatures yesterday were above freezing for most of our terrain, with the summit of Mount Washington holding a few degrees below 32F. A half inch of snow fell at high elevations on W wind that decreased from around 60 mph to under 40 mph. Below freezing temperatures returned overnight for most of our terrain including low elevations, though around 4000' is actually the warmest elevation band in our terrain this morning at 33F. Similar warming is forecast for today. By this evening, all elevations should be above freezing with highs in the upper 30'sF in the notches. Cloudy skies will bring light amounts of mixed precipitation, totaling less than a tenth of an inch, which could include snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain. Wind shifts SW and should increase through the day today towards 60 mph on the summits. All elevations are forecast to remain above freezing through tonight as heavier precipitation begins early tomorrow, falling mostly as rain but shifting to a wintry mix and ultimately snow late in the day.

Primary Avalanche Problem


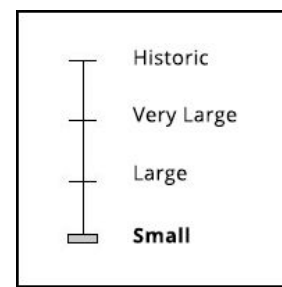
Wet Loose



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Small, wet loose avalanches may become possible as temperatures rise though the day. These sluffs are easiest to initiate with skis or a snowboard. As you evaluate snow conditions and choose terrain today, remember that a small avalanche can easily cause a fall. A small, wet loose sluff in high consequence terrain can be a big problem. Look for increasing boot or ski penetration into wet snow as a sign that you may be able to initiate wet loose sluff today.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

Periods of warming and refreezing since Thursday have helped stabilize wind slabs which formed up to a week ago. These wind slabs sit on a robust crust to which they seem well bonded. Slight warming today makes wet loose sluffs a key hazard to manage, but we don't expect warming to the point of making wet slabs an avalanche problem. You may still be able to find dry snow on the surface, especially at upper elevations, but you're more likely to find moist to wet snow. If the weather forecast of rain and warmer temperatures pans out for tomorrow, expect decreased stability of our upper snowpack with wet slab avalanches becoming an avalanche problem.

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.