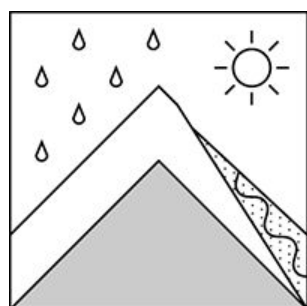
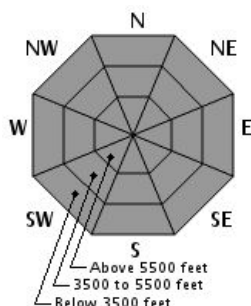
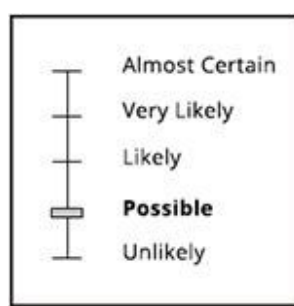
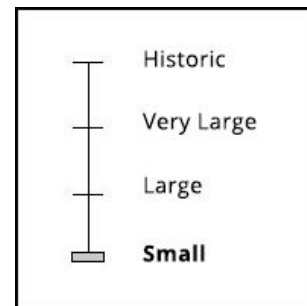


The Bottom Line

Many spring hazards are becoming prevalent in our terrain, and should keep you on your toes today along with unlikely but not impossible wet slab avalanches. Wet loose sluff avalanches initiating under your skis or board could easily pull you towards a number of growing hazards if not managed appropriately. Avalanche danger is **LOW** today. Many glide cracks or crevasses, holes melted by flowing water, and areas of undermined snow continue to develop and combine with the icefall and rockfall potential that are typical in of period of warming. A lucky skier had a very close call yesterday, falling into one of these deep melted out holes in the Headwall of Tuckerman Ravine. After 20 minutes of extreme effort while becoming dangerously wet and cold, the experienced backcountry skier was able to climb out via another connected hole. A similar fall into the many holes that are harder to escape would not have ended so well and should remind us all to respect this significant hazard.

Mountain Weather

Yesterday brought our streak of days without a refreeze to five, with a low of 33F and a high of 42F on the summit of Mount Washington. Rainfall overnight has totaled 0.21" and should end this morning as mostly cloudy skies give way to rain again tonight. High temperatures will be in the mid to upper 40'sF with tonight remaining above freezing. Variable wind today should become westerly and increase tonight and into tomorrow, as precipitation tapers off but continues through the day. Temperatures will drop and possibly result in mixed precipitation and somewhat of a snowpack refreeze at upper elevations.

Primary Avalanche Problem

Wet Loose

Aspect/Elevation

Likelihood

Size

Wet loose sluff avalanches are possible to initiate under your skis or board in all steep terrain and likely on slopes that have seen minimal recent ski traffic. While typically not large enough to bury a person, these heavy sluffs can easily knock you off your feet and cause an unwanted fall in high consequence terrain. Be ready to manage sluff in any steep terrain.

Secondary Avalanche Problem

Wet slab avalanches releasing naturally are unlikely but remain a concern in steep terrain where water is flowing under the snow. Identify the runout zones that could be threatened by a large wet slab and minimize your time in these areas.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

The most recent winter storm was just one week ago, but the entire Presidential Range has since spent five full days above freezing. It's a good time to remember that such extended warming is not the norm on the higher summits. Heat and moisture are penetrating deep into our snowpack. Wet slab avalanches are tricky to predict in more normal warming conditions, so the current abnormal weather lends additional uncertainty to their likelihood. The opening of many glide cracks suggests cohesion through the full depth of our snowpack. That said, wet slab avalanches can release at or near the ground, especially when significant water is flowing as it is currently. It's worth minimizing your time in avalanche paths to manage this low probability but high consequence hazard, and also being mindful that the warming conditions are making our typical spring hazards quite prominent:

- Opening streams
- Holes near trees, rocks, and cliffs
- Undermined snow that could easily collapse
- Glide cracks on snow slopes
- Falling ice and rock

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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.