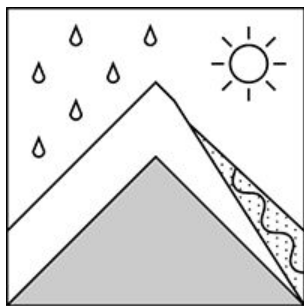
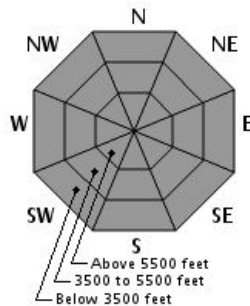
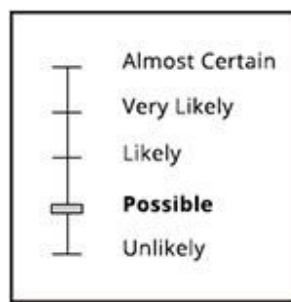
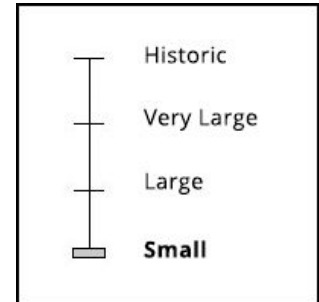


**The Bottom Line**

Spring hazards remain through most of the day though new snow and wind slab development is possible this afternoon. Our snowpack hasn't refrozen for six days which makes wet loose avalanches a concern. A skier triggered but was not captured by a D1 or 1.5 wet loose avalanche in Left Gully yesterday. These types of avalanches are often harmless if carefully managed but if not, they can push you over cliff bands, into crevasses or moat. Undermined snow over flowing streams remains a threat though peak flow has subsided following recent rain and warmer temperatures. Assess the weather carefully this afternoon and bear in mind that any new wind slabs that develop are likely to be sensitive to human-triggering. Avalanche danger is LOW today.

**Mountain Weather**

Morning showers, cloudy skies and temperatures again above freezing yesterday gave way to overnight showers with .18" of rain recorded on the summit. The overnight low temperature was 37F which is where we start the day. Precipitation is expected to continue today with temperatures on the summit slowly making their way back to freezing and below, reaching the upper 20sF in the afternoon. Rain may transition to mixed precipitation, including snow with a trace to 2" possible. West wind at 50 mph this morning will shift to the NW, decrease to 25-40 mph mid day before increasing to 40-55 mph this evening. The chance for snow showers continues overnight with up to 1" possible. Partial clearing skies tomorrow, summit temperatures in the mid 30'sF and light NW wind expected.

**Primary Avalanche Problem**

**Wet Loose**

**Aspect/Elevation**

**Likelihood**

**Size**

It is possible for skiers to initiate wet loose sluff avalanches on steep terrain today. While small in size, these slow moving sluff avalanches have the ability to entrain skis and carry a person to an undesirable location such as one of the many sizeable glide cracks or cliffs found on our steeper slopes.

**Secondary Avalanche Problem**

New snow this afternoon may combine with a NW wind to create the potential for wind slabs on easterly aspects. Size, sensitivity and location of this avalanche problem depends on an uncertain weather forecast of precipitation types. Watch for developing wind slabs this afternoon if the rain turns to snow.

**Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion**

The summit of Mount Washington has not been below freezing since the 18th, allowing heat and moisture to penetrate deep into our snowpack. Significant melting has occurred, bringing springtime objective hazards to the forefront. If you are in the mountains today be watching for:

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

We did not name Wet Slab as an avalanche problem today, partially due to the fact that we believe peak water levels flowing into and through the snowpack has passed, and also the chance for new wind slabs developing as the temperature falls below freezing. With water likely to be flowing in the stream under The Lip area, spending time on the floor of Tuckerman Ravine should be avoided today.

Jeff Fongemie, 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.