

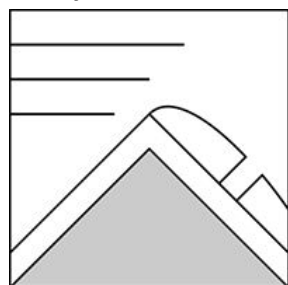
The Bottom Line

Small, thin wind slabs formed early in the week have had time to stabilize and are unlikely to produce a human triggered avalanche. The greater danger today is the potential for long sliding falls on our refrozen snowpack. You may be drawn to the smooth, new snow, however consider the consequences of even a small avalanche resulting in a dangerous sliding fall on the hard snow surface below. This hard snow surface present in much of our terrain will limit your ability to self arrest a sliding fall. **LOW** avalanche danger exists today with human triggered avalanches unlikely. The possibility of new snow this afternoon combined with NW wind may build small new wind slabs in isolated areas.

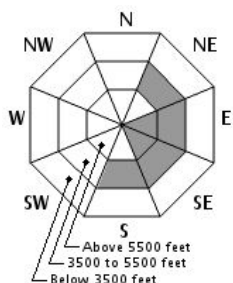
Mountain Weather

Yesterday was sunny with mostly clear skies and moderate winds, but slow to warm until the W wind shifted S in the afternoon pushing summit temperatures into the high teens. Hermit Lake reported 39 F for a high temperature. South facing slopes in the ravines did manage to soften a little in locations sheltered from the wind. Overnight, a low pressure weather system offshore managed to send just a trace of new snow our way. Today temperatures will rise to the mid 20s F on the summits, and warmer at lower elevations. South wind 10-20 mph through the morning will then shift to the NW, increasing in speed to 80-100 mph this afternoon. A second round of snow showers in the afternoon may bring another inch of snow at mid and upper elevations. Another inch or more of snow may fall tonight, as temperatures drop to the single digits on the summit. This forecast chance of snow ends early tomorrow while the 80-100 mph NW wind continues through the day.

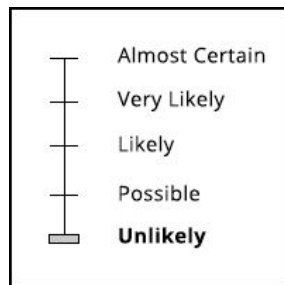
Primary Avalanche Problem



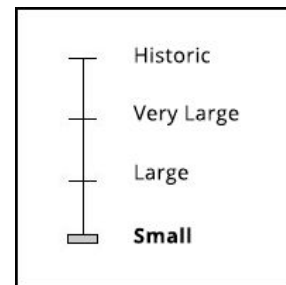
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Wind slabs formed early this week are limited in size, seemingly unreactive to a human trigger, and found at elevations above 3500 feet on eastern aspects. Any new snow that falls this afternoon will be affected by W and NW wind, adding to existing wind slabs at mid elevations on the eastern side of the range. Current forecasts suggest small snowfall totals and quickly increasing wind speeds which will limit the development of sensitive new wind slabs. Watch for small slabs developing on isolated terrain features.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

In Huntington and Tuckerman Ravines yesterday we found areas of wind slab formed over the last 48 hours were limited to thin pockets that appear to have bonded well to the existing refrozen snow, a result of Sunday's warm rain and following refreeze on Monday. The effects of Sunday's rain is evident in the form of runnels and a heavily textured snow surface. Until we have either a significant warm up, or rain, future avalanche concerns at mid and upper elevations are limited to new snow above this surface. Low elevations are quickly losing snow and may lack sufficient snow to have any avalanche problem.

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 or at the Harvard Cabin.