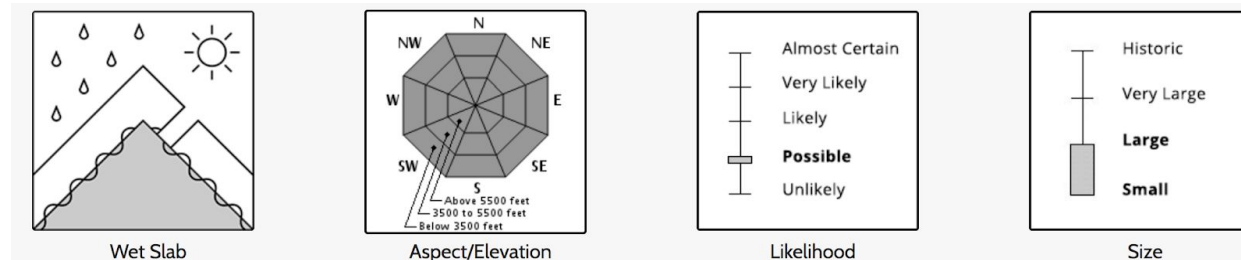
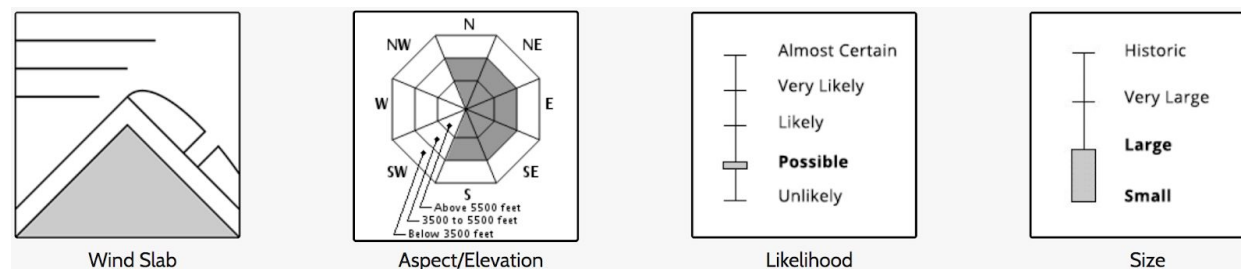


**The Bottom Line**

Rapid melting is never a good thing in the mountains. Be wary of hazards above you if you venture into avalanche terrain or beneath any cliff with ice hanging from it. Rain and warm air will add more strain to already weakening wind slabs and make them susceptible to a human trigger. Later today, rapid cooling will lead to a refreeze in the snowpack and may create a long sliding fall hazard. Also, wind slab avalanches may be possible later today if new snow amounts reach the upper end of the forecast 2-4". Avalanche danger remains **MODERATE** today. Evaluate snow and weather conditions carefully.

**Primary Avalanche Problem**


Though natural wet snow avalanches seem unlikely today, there is always great uncertainty with this type of avalanche problem. Warm air and more rain will weaken bonds and add stress to existing wind slabs.


**Secondary Avalanche Problem**

New wind slabs may develop later today as temperatures cool and precipitation turns to snow. Strong winds from the northwest combined with upslope snow showers have a history of creating this avalanche problem type. The timing of this problem remains in question so keep a close eye on the changeover to snow.

**Mountain Weather**

As of 5am this morning, the summit of Mount Washington is 43F, and 50F at 4000' elevation. Just over half an inch of rain (14mm) was recorded at Harvard Cabin at 3500'. .3" of rain fell yesterday on the summit, with another .3" expected today before temperatures fall to the lower teens with a chance for 2-4" of snow and sleet before this system is done. Rainfall totals could exceed the forecast amount if intense thunderstorms pass over the range. Winds will remain elevated through the day from the NW 75 to 95 mph with gusts to 120. Seasonably cold tomorrow with temperatures in the teens F and W wind 45-60.

**Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion**

If you are keeping tabs on our snowpack for future ski missions, you're likely thinking, "Uh-oh, another melt-freeze crust." Though this rain is resetting our snowpack by erasing any concerns for the previous ice layer and any facets

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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.



**Avalanche Forecast issued on Sunday, January 12, 2020**

which may have developed nearby, it is creating the same problem all over again in a new location. Be wary of upslope snow fall over the next few days which may bond only tenuously to the new ice layer. (see web for more)

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