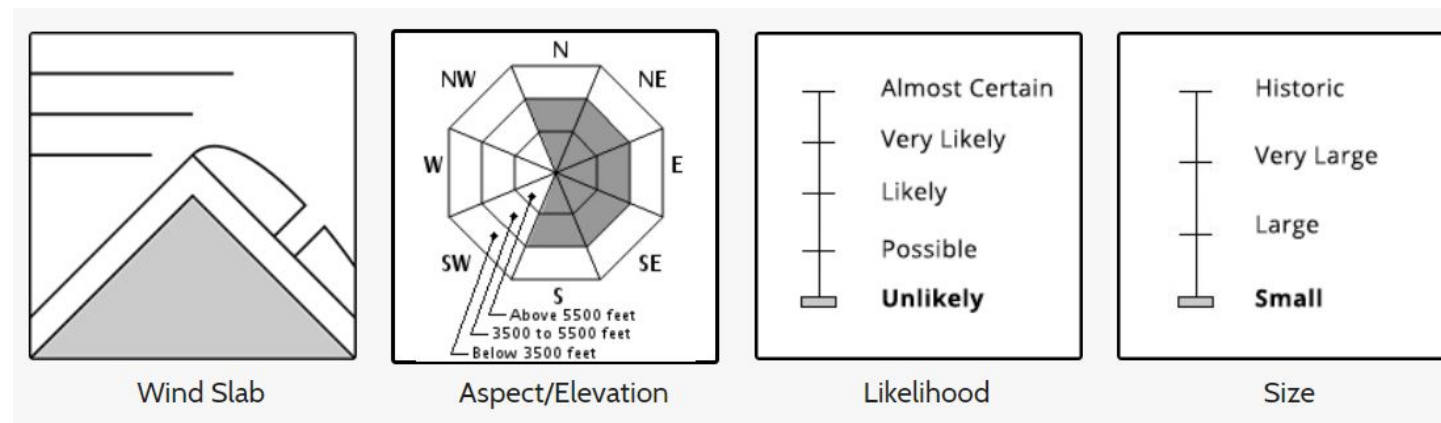


The Bottom Line - Avalanche danger is **LOW** today.

Refrozen, icy snow presents an equal or greater danger than the small drifted pockets of wind slab that may be found in the terrain today. Arresting a fall in steep terrain may not be possible. As you choose your terrain today, consider the consequences of a long sliding fall, which could be caused by a stumble, or even a very small avalanche. Crampons, an ice axe and well practiced skills to use them are essential tools for our current conditions. Warm rain events often add challenges to ice climbs, including undermined ice and ice dams with pressured water behind.

Primary Avalanche Problem



Wind slabs that are small in size may be reactive to a human trigger, but should be sufficiently isolated in distribution to be easily avoided. Any new snow today will fall on strong west wind adding to this avalanche problem. Keep in mind a small avalanche on a steep and frozen snow slope today can bring big consequences.

Mountain Weather

Temperatures have returned to seasonable teens F after this weekend's warm rain. The half inch of new snow that fell at the tail end of this system yesterday was affected by W wind blowing for several hours at 70-80 MPH. Mostly cloudy skies are forecast today with temperatures in the 20s F and W wind will increase through the day to 45-60 mph. Up to 1" of snow is possible this afternoon. A continuous chance for light snow showers for the next 48 hours with more significant snow Tuesday night may bring increased avalanche danger by Wednesday.

Forecast Discussion

Mount Washington Observatory recorded 1.38" of rain this weekend, with daily high temperatures of 42F on Saturday and 45F early Sunday. The ravines likely experienced 36 hours of above freezing temperatures. The Hermit Lake snow plot was 0 C at -20cm Sunday morning with 25cm settlement since Friday. This was a significant warming event and once this snowpack refreezes will be the new bed surface for future avalanche problems. Visibility has been limited, though with the return of seasonably cold temperatures we can expect the snowpack is well on the way to a refrozen state of stability and the small wind slabs which may have formed overnight and later today are our only avalanche concern.

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.