

### The Bottom Line

Human triggered avalanches are possible today where wind will combine with new snow, and possibly existing snow above treeline, to form new wind slabs. You are most likely to encounter this avalanche problem on steep slopes and cross loaded gullies in eastern ravines above 3500' elevations. Evaluate snow carefully as you move through the terrain. Blowing snow will make identifying new wind slabs challenging from a distance. Today's hazard rating is **MODERATE**.

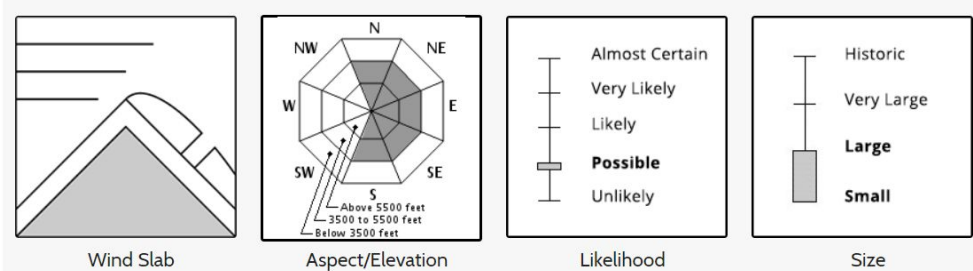
### Mountain Weather

**Yesterday**, 0.2" of snow was recorded on the summit of Mt. Washington with a trace recorded at Hermit Lake. North west wind remained fairly steady during daylight hours at 15-20 mph. Temperatures hovered around 10 F.

**Today**, 1 – 3" of snow is forecast. Higher intensity snow showers are more likely in the afternoon hours. West wind at 60-80mph and temperatures in the lower teens F. Chance for a trace to 1" of snow overnight.

**Tomorrow**, in the clouds with snow showers accumulating to 1-2". Temperatures in the lower 20sF and west wind 35-50mph.

### Primary Avalanche Problem



Several inches of snow above 5500' is likely available for transport by the increased wind today, and up to 3" of new snow will provide enough raw materials to build wind slabs. These new wind slabs forming today may be reactive, especially in locations that avoid the strongest wind. Melt freeze crusts on the snow surface may exacerbate this problem by providing a icy bed surface. The existing snowpack structure leading into today remains a concern, though less so as more observations come in suggesting settlement and unreactivity. The possibility exists for an avalanche today to trigger deeper into the existing snowpack.

### Forecast Discussion

Today's avalanche problem is largely driven by the new snow expected today and any remaining snow above treeline available for transport into the ravines. Both factors include a level of uncertainty: new snow from snow showers can result in much less than predicted, and also significantly more than predicted. The OBS hints at the possibility of exceeding expected snow totals today, while the NWS is predicting less than 2" and much of that later this afternoon. Information from hikers, and relatively slow wind speeds recently leads us to believe that there may be several inches of snow available for transport, though ice crusts may or may not keep that snow locked to the ground.

The existing snow structure keeping us at Moderate for several days is becoming less of a concern as great observations come in continuing to suggest stability.

### Additional Information

The Sherburne and Gulf of Slides ski trails are snow covered to Pinkham Notch with good skiing most of the way down. Beware of breakable crusts off trail.

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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 or at the Harvard Cabin.