

## The Bottom Line

All forecast areas have **LOW** avalanche danger today. Use normal caution for avalanche terrain and remember that Low does not mean no avalanche danger. South facing aspects warmed from the sun over the last two days may be re-frozen in steep terrain creating a sliding fall hazard requiring crampons and the ability to self arrest to travel safely.

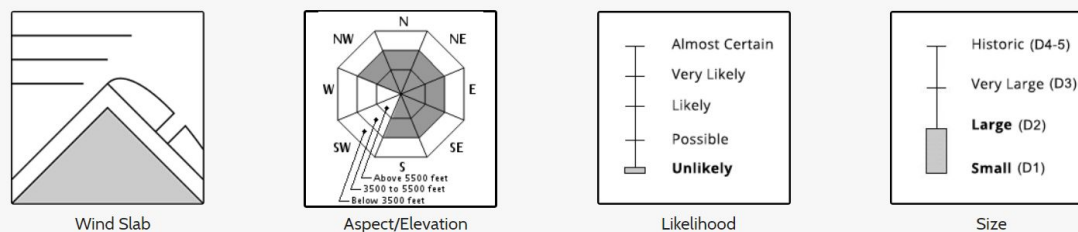
## Mountain Weather

**Yesterday** was unseasonably warm with clear skies and wind from the west at 35-45 mph. Highs from around the Presidential Range yesterday: The summit of Mt Washington: 27F, Gray Knob: 40F, Hermit Lake: 43F, Gulf of Slides at 4100': 38F

**Today** warm temperatures continue with summit high temperatures in the upper 20sF. Scattered clouds this morning will thicken through the day limiting/eliminating the effects of the sun on southern aspects. Light precipitation is expected in the afternoon as snow or freezing drizzle with a trace to less than an inch expected. Wind will be from the west at 5-20 mph.

**Tomorrow**, 1-3" of snow is possible with summit temperatures in the mid 20sF and cloudy skies. Wind from the west at 15-30 mph will increase to 25-40 mph. Avalanche danger will increase if we see snow totals at the upper end of the forecast.

## Primary Avalanche Problem



Cloudy skies today and slightly cooler temperatures will limit the amount of warming the week-old wind slabs at mid and upper elevations will receive today. This should limit or even eliminate the instability concerns due to surface warming experienced over the last two days. What still remains, is a firm wind slab over an ice crust and a thin layer of weak facets. Triggering a wind slab today is unlikely though not impossible should you find a thin spot. With a trace to under an inch of new snow in the forecast, it's worth keeping an eye out for new wind slab development, though with such little snow and light wind this will be unlikely.

## Secondary Avalanche Problem

**Wet loose avalanches** are a concern today at mid and lower elevations due to warm temperatures and the chance of precipitation that will fall as rain or freezing rain, depending on elevation. These will likely be small in size, and more likely on steep terrain where even a small avalanche can have consequences.

## Forecast Discussion

The Moderate avalanche hazard over the last two days was driven by the warm air temperatures and bright sun working to warm surface snow, weakening the strength of the wind slab. Today, clouds should eliminate solar radiation from the equation, leaving us with ambient air temperature as the primary weather factor affecting snow stability. Today will be warm, but slightly cooler than yesterday, and air temperatures in the mid and upper elevations will likely remain just below freezing through the day. The second weather factor today is the chance of snow or freezing rain. Precip should fall as snow at upper elevations, and likely mid elevations. Lower elevations will see some light rain, which will add some degree of instability to the snowpack. With temperatures hovering around the freezing mark and with little QPF for precip we don't expect these subtle factors to have a significant effect on the snowpack 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 or at the Harvard Cabin.



## Avalanche Forecast for Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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.