

The Bottom Line

The snowpack in our forecast area was wetted at most elevations yesterday before refreezing under falling temperatures creating a sliding fall hazard in steep terrain. Watch for isolated pockets of wind slab in sheltered terrain that will be masking the icy surface below. Stiff boots, crampons, ice axe and the skills to use them are required basic tools to be safe today. Avalanche danger is **LOW**. Natural and human triggered avalanches are unlikely.

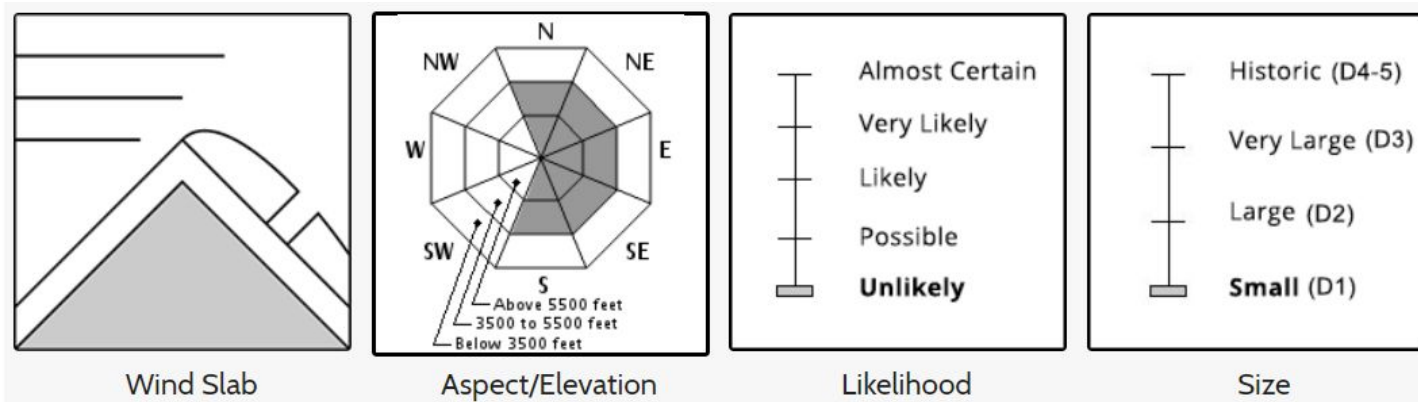
Mountain Weather

Yesterday, the summit of Mt Washington recorded a mix of precipitation types including snow, ice pellets, and freezing rain resulting in just 1.4" total snowfall from the 0.43" of liquid precipitation that fell. Hermit Lake recorded 2.3" of snow, noting precip went from snow to sleet to rain then back to snow/sleet with a 2cm ice crust. Temperatures peaked at 32F around 3pm on a 70-90 mph W wind, before falling sharply as wind shifted W at 70-100 mph through the night.

Today, west wind will shift NW and continue to rage at 70-90 with gusts up to 120 mph early, then ease off slightly through the day. Temperatures will remain in the upper single digits F with a chance of snow showers producing a trace to 1".

Tomorrow, expect clearing skies with continued cold temperatures in the single digits above. North west wind at 50-60 mph. No snow is forecast.

Primary Avalanche Problem



Small wind slabs formed from the 1.4" of new snow yesterday may be found in sheltered terrain and are likely unreactive. While this is a seemingly small avalanche problem, it can be a big hazard when barely covering a slick bed surface in steep terrain.

Forecast Discussion

Yesterday's mixed precipitation at mid and upper elevations was unlikely to eliminate the frozen surface, sliding fall hazard since Tuesday's warm rain and the subsequent re-freeze. It's likely that patches of new snow can be found, and while in some places the snow may be thick enough to hold an edge, in others the snow will be thin and barely covering the icy surface. With strong wind trying to push you off your feet, and the fact that a stumble can result in a sliding fall, today is a good day to dial back expectations.

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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.