

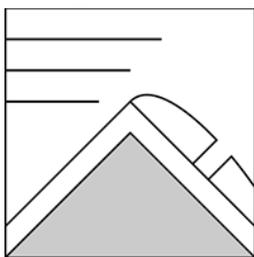
**The Bottom Line**

Avalanche danger today is confined to recently formed wind drifts, but the hard refrozen snow present in much of our terrain means that even a very small avalanche could cause a big fall. Watch for these areas of new and likely quite small wind slabs when route finding today, remembering that the LOW avalanche danger in all forecast areas does not mean no avalanche danger. Be equally or more mindful of the potential for high consequence long sliding falls on the hard and smooth refrozen snow. Consider fall consequence when choosing terrain, and travel with your solid crampon and ice axe skills this sunny Christmas day!

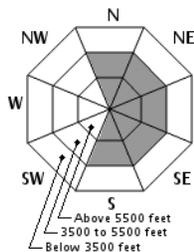
**Mountain Weather**

Modest overnight snowfall has been affected by NW wind recorded in the 50-70 mph range on the summit. This wind will continue though decrease slightly today. Hermit Lake and the Summit recorded 1.5" of snow, with Grey Knob coming in a little higher at 3 inches. Skies have cleared and should remain so through today. Temperatures will climb from the current -2F on the summit towards 10F. Tomorrow's temperatures are forecast to be similar, with increasing clouds bringing a possible trace of snow as NW wind continues and increases through the day.

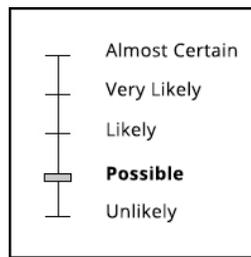
**Primary Avalanche Problem**



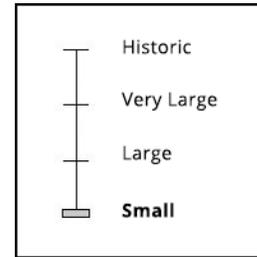
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

New wind slabs that you'll likely find in isolated pockets throughout the eastern half of the compass rose may be reactive to a human trigger. We expect these to be small in size, but highly variable conditions mean that a few larger pockets could also be found. It should be possible to avoid this avalanche problem by staying on areas scoured to hard refrozen snow, but there is potential for constricted terrain features to minimize this avoidance option in narrow gullies.

**Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion**

The low density snow we received last night will have been easily transported by the sustained NW wind, leaving pockets of new wind slab. A few small pockets of wind slab formed Saturday into Sunday also can be found. Consistently cold temperatures since the significant rain and warming event late last week have refrozen the rest of our snowpack into a solid and quite stable state. Avalanche concerns are limited to the isolated pockets of wind slab described in the avalanche problem. For the time being, the hard snow surface which provides great crampon purchase also makes long sliding falls of greater concern than avalanches in most of our terrain.

**Please Remember:**

- Safe travel in avalanche terrain requires training and experience. This advisory is just one tool to help you make your own decisions in avalanche terrain. You control your own risk by choosing where, when, and how you travel.
- Anticipate a changing avalanche danger when actual weather differs from the higher summits 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.