

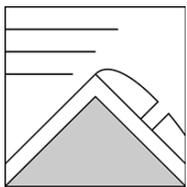
The Bottom Line

Wind from the west and northwest will ramp up this morning and build new unstable slabs through the day, resulting in increasing avalanche danger. The Headwall of Tuckerman Ravine will have **HIGH** avalanche danger, with natural avalanches that threaten the floor of the ravine likely. All other areas will have **CONSIDERABLE** avalanche danger with natural avalanches being possible. You're likely to trigger an avalanche on steep, wind drifted slopes today. Avoid travel on or below this wind loaded terrain.

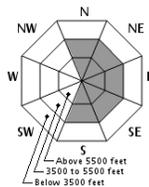
Mountain Weather

Snowfall began after dark yesterday on the heels of a fairly unremarkable weather day. The storm has produced nearly 5" of mixed snow and sleet at Hermit Lake. Overnight winds were 30-60 mph and varied in direction between S and SW. Several hours of mixed snow, sleet, and freezing rain should occur this morning before switching back to all snow. Upslope snow showers are forecast to produce another 2-4 inches of snow today before precipitation ends this evening. Current summit temperature of 22F should drop by 10 degrees through the day. Wind will shift through W to NW and increase rapidly this morning to around 70 mph.

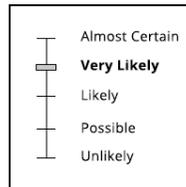
Primary Avalanche Problem



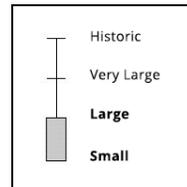
Wind Slab



Location



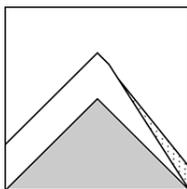
Likelihood



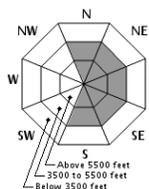
Size

Wind will increase to create new and touchy slabs in terrain on the eastern half of the compass rose through the day. We expect wind slabs to vary in size and be large enough to easily bury a person in specific areas like the Headwall of Tuckerman Ravine or the Main Gully in Gulf of Slides. Mixed precipitation types, including significant sleet, add an element of uncertainty to the size of new slabs, but a slick bed surface makes natural avalanches likely today.

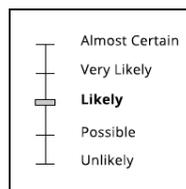
Secondary Avalanche Problem



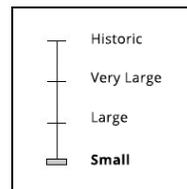
Dry Loose



Location



Likelihood



Size

Sluffing may be a concern in areas less affected by wind or where new mixed precipitation lacks cohesion to form a slab. Though small in size, sluffs could be easily initiated by a person travelling in steep terrain. Rain at lower elevations on the west side this morning indicates that sluffs could be of the wet variety in steep lower elevation 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.