

Avalanche Advisory for Tuesday, March 03, 2015

Expires tonight at 12:00 midnight

Tuckerman Ravine has Moderate and Low avalanche danger. Lobster Claw, Right Gully, the Sluice, Lip, Center Bowl, Chute, and Lower Snowfields have Moderate avalanche danger. Natural avalanches are unlikely and human triggered avalanches are possible. Left Gully, Hillman's Highway, and the Little Headwall have Low avalanche danger. Unstable snow may exist in isolated terrain features in these locations.

Huntington Ravine has Low avalanche danger. Natural and human triggered avalanches are unlikely.

AVALANCHE PROBLEM: The primary concerns today are wind slabs that developed during strong winds and upslope snow yesterday. There were some naturally triggered avalanches in Tuckerman, but slopes that avalanched were able to reload before the blowing snow began to diminish. **The areas of greatest concern will be in the Sluice, Lip, Center Bowl, and Chute of Tuckerman.** All of Huntington Ravine was heavily scoured and has very stable snow. Hillman's and Left Gully are similarly Low danger, although more wind-hammered than scoured. The Lower Snowfields and Little Headwall have areas that may produce small human triggered slides.

WEATHER: Weather will be changing significantly through the day. We are starting with clear and relatively calm conditions. There is a little bit of low drifting snow blowing over the headwall which should cease as summit wind speeds drop down to 25-40mph (40-65kph). Clouds will build this afternoon and snow should begin falling after dark. Tonight's weather is expected to increase the avalanche danger, but not until very close to the end of this advisory's lifespan. Total snowfall from Sunday through today has been roughly 4". It's possible that more fell, but winds have made measurements difficult at our snowplots and at the summit.

SNOWPACK: Be on the lookout for areas where yesterday's snow has been loaded into slabs. Don't take the recent avalanche activity as an indicator of a stable slope. In fact you should be thinking just the opposite. In addition to hangfire, reloaded slabs on top of previous bed surfaces may not have had a good opportunity to bond well to the bed surface and could be just as reactive as the slab that had already avalanched. As mentioned, these are primarily in the Sluice, Lip, Center Bowl, and Chute. Also expect to find some new slab in Right Gully and Lobster Claw, but these routes may also offer more options for avoiding stability problems than the more exposed routes in the middle of Tuckerman.

Much of the new snow that fell yesterday has blown down out of the ravines and into the forests below. Judging from the amount of drifting on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail and Huntington Fire Road this morning, I suspect the Sherburne Trail is in fine shape with some fun drifting to play around on.

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 the Harvard Cabin.
- **Posted 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, March 03, 2015. A new advisory will be issued tomorrow.**

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