

Avalanche Advisory for Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Expires tonight at 12:00 midnight

Tuckerman Ravine will have Moderate and Low avalanche danger today. The Sluice, Lip, Center Bowl, Chute, Left Gully, and Hillman's Highway will have Moderate avalanche danger. Natural avalanches are unlikely and human-triggered avalanches will be possible. All other areas have Low avalanche danger. Natural and human-triggered avalanches are unlikely except for small avalanches in isolated terrain features. **Huntington Ravine is under a General Advisory.** You will need to do your own snow stability assessments when traveling in avalanche terrain in Huntington. A danger of falling ice exists, and will persist until it all comes down.

AVALANCHE PROBLEM: All areas are starting today with a stable snowpack and Low avalanche danger. Mixed precipitation and snow this afternoon with a W, SW, and S wind from 25-40 mph will create **Wind Slab** primarily in upper start zones. Slabs may be dense and heavy due to the possibility of a mixed crystal type until early evening. If a prolonged period of a "New England wintry mix" hits us it will consume the available water, giving us quite a bit less than the max 4" of snow forecast. **Conversely, if we get mostly snow, expect the danger to move into the upper end of the Moderate danger later today. Eventually, around midnight ratings will likely be beyond Moderate for most areas.**

WEATHER: Precipitation amounts during the past 36 hours were impressively diverse. Close to 2.5" of rain fell near Conway while not much more than 0.1" fell north of the Presidentials. The snowpack, holding plenty of free water, froze hard overnight from the upper half of the ravines to the summits, however at Hermit Lake the mercury only fell to 31F (-1C). Another wet shield is heading our way with snow beginning this afternoon. Expect snow to become heavy at times, producing up to 2-4" today with a W wind shifting to the S. Heavy snow tonight will add to another 4-8", perhaps generating up to a foot (30cm) by tomorrow, being delivered on a W wind approaching 70mph (112kph).

SNOWPACK: As the snowpack drained overnight and began to freeze from the surface down, overall stability increased. At the 3800' Hermit Lake level the ambient air temperatures fell to 31F (-1C) freezing the surface, but snow temperatures at 10 and 20 cm down from the surface are still a warm 0C (32F). The summit falling to 21F early this morning insinuates a deeper freeze took place at higher elevations. As snow falls this afternoon and into the overnight a number of skier produced nooks, crannies, and moguls will help create some anchoring, such as in the Lip. However with recent warm air and rain most areas have settled and are smooth making a slick bed surface for the afternoon snow event. If precipitation begins as a wet mix, some bonding between layers can be expected.

OTHER HAZARDS: The typical springtime hazards have emerged. You should be aware of the potential of **falling ice, crevasses, and undermined snow.** The best you can do to mitigate the risk from these objective hazards is to avoid them, especially during times when they are more probable. Falling ice is the hardest to predict and should be given a lot of respect and room. Because of this unpredictability, we generally recommend hazard avoidance as a primary strategy. As an example, Lunch Rocks or "Icefall Rocks" is right in the bulls-eye and has been the scene of many accidents over the years, so avoid this location. Other hazards such as emerging crevasses may be hard to recognize late today and tomorrow, due to being hidden by new snow. The vast majority can be found in the Lip towards the Center Bowl.

The Little Headwall has suffered from a collapsed section. We are no longer recommending this as a route out of the bowl. The Sherburne Ski Trail will have the lower section closed beginning today. You can ski (mostly) to the #3 crossover, then pack up the skis for the 3/4 miles of hiking down the Tuckerman Ravine Trail.

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 8:40 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2015. A new advisory will be issued tomorrow.**

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