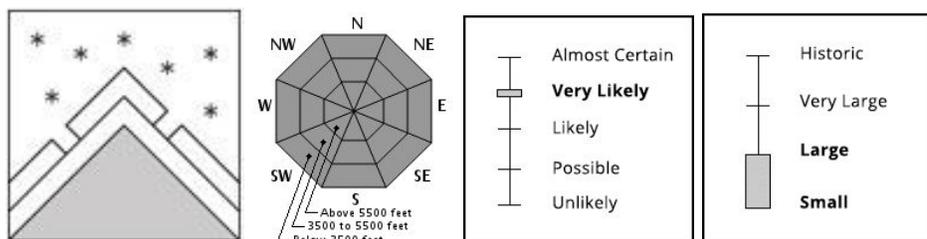


**The Bottom Line**

Human triggered avalanches are likely today. Periods of heavy snow combined with shifting wind direction and speeds will keep conditions changing by the hour. Excellent avalanche and route finding skills will be required to avoid the complex avalanche problems that will be present today. All areas have **CONSIDERABLE** avalanche danger with avalanche problems existing in all aspects and elevations of our forecast area.

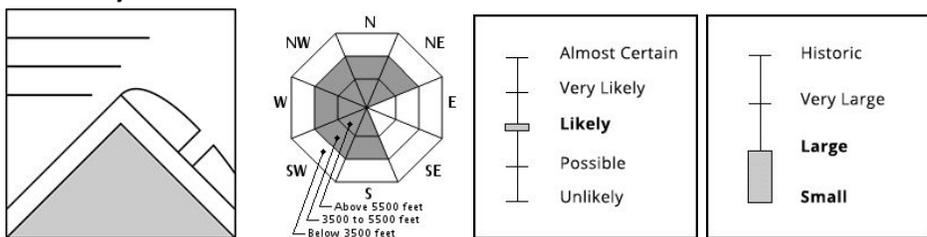
**Mountain Weather**

Snowfall began early yesterday afternoon and will continue through today. Currently, snowfall is heavy around our forecast area. The intense periods of snowfall should happen this morning with a brief period of sleet possible this afternoon. Forecast snowfall totals are a moving target with many variables in play, though 12" seems likely to fall by late afternoon with the majority of that falling through the morning. Banding could bring more. The lower end of forecast totals has an associated water equivalent of about 1.25". Overnight, snow showers could bring up to another inch or two. Wind is currently from the SE at 45 mph. There is some uncertainty in direction, though it looks as if wind speed will remain in the 35-50 mph range for the morning and trend toward an easterly wind. Speed will decrease slightly for the early afternoon (25-40 mph) while shifting back to south. Around dark, wind will shift to NW and begin a steady increase that will reach 50-65 mph for the night.

**Primary Avalanche Problem**


Storm Slab      Aspect/Elevation      Likelihood      Size

Storm slab will build today due to the intensity and amount of snow forecast. Expect to find this on all aspects and elevations and become increasingly touchy as slope angle and depth of snow increases. Storm slab may act like deep snow with minimal cohesion on lower angled terrain, but will be touchy to a human trigger and need to be managed appropriately or avoided as slopes grow steeper and larger. Be aware for the potential of skier-induced sluff to build and trigger one of these storm slabs below.

**Secondary Avalanche Problem**


Wind Slab      Aspect/Elevation      Likelihood      Size

Wind from the SE will load snow into aspects on the western half of the compass. Look for cross-loading in gullies that lie on the east side of the range but that have a northern or southern aspect. These will likely be touchy to a human trigger. Bear in mind that while the snow in the bottom of a gully may appear unaffected by the wind, start zones a thousand feet above are likely to see wind loading. After sunset, these wind slabs may become widespread on all aspects due to wind increasing and shifting to the NW.

Helon Hoffer, Snow Ranger; USDA Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest; (603)466-2713 TTY (603)466-2858

**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.



## Avalanche Forecast for Sunday, January 20, 2019

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