

Avalanche Advisory for Thursday, April 17, 2014

Expires tonight at 12:00 midnight

Tuckerman Ravine has Moderate and Low avalanche danger. Lip and Center Bowl have Moderate avalanche hazard. Natural avalanches are unlikely and human triggered avalanches are possible. All other forecast areas have Low avalanche hazard. Natural and human triggered avalanches are unlikely. **Evaluate snow and terrain carefully!**

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: Wind deposited snow across the Center Bowl and especially in the Lip area yesterday. **Wind Slab** will most likely be reactive to human triggering as it warms this morning before their energy is cooked out by the sunshine. **The Open Book waterfall hole in the fall line of the Lip could make a sliding fall extremely consequential.** Pockets of new wind slab also exist beneath Sluice ice, in Chute and below the narrow section, on skiers left, in Left Gully.

WEATHER: Two inches of snow yesterday blew into the Ravines yesterday on high, westerly winds. Light winds this morning coupled with clear skies will allow temperatures to push up into the 30'sF, if not into the 40's, in Tuckerman today with upper 20's F forecast for the summit. Scattered clouds could allow slopes to refreeze at times today with the temperature so close to freezing.

SNOWPACK: Snow surfaces not covered with new snow today will be very hard and icy this morning. Yesterday, winds from the west effectively transported the small amount of new snow into smooth wind slabs in the Lip, beneath the ice across the Headwall. Some of these drifts may be obscuring possibly deep slots that opened during recent heavy rain and warm temperatures. You are most likely to find these on steep snow slopes beneath buttresses of rock or ice in the Headwall/Lip and Sluice areas. Be aware of the potential to punch through into these slots, especially when traveling on foot. The main waterfall hole marking the Lip/Center Bowl boundary opened but some thin ice and snow is now concealing the hazard from view. **Choose your line carefully!**

OTHER HAZARDS: Recent rain and warm weather really melted out snow spanning streams like the one that flows out of Tuckerman. With our deep snowpack, the distance from snow surface to rushing streambed below could make it difficult to climb out of some of the holes should you fall in. Rain also weakened frozen waterfalls so keep this hazard on your radar. Lunch Rocks is still a roll of the dice in terms of this hazard.

Micro-spikes and other creeper style traction devices may be helpful on some lower angle trails, but they do not provide the security of crampons. Be prepared to handle steep, firm snow and fast, icy surfaces

The Sherburne ski trail is what you would expect after 2" of rain followed by freezing temperatures. You can still make it to the parking lot but expect detours around ice, bare spots and open water drainages.

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 at 7:45 pm, Thursday, April 17, 2014. A new advisory will be issued tomorrow.**

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