

General Advisory for Tuckerman Ravine

Posted 9:00a.m. May 12, 2015. Expires 12:00 midnight May 14, 2015

A General Advisory is in effect for Tuckerman Ravine. You will need to do your own snow stability assessments. A new advisory will be issued when conditions warrant or within 72 hours. A General Advisory for Tuckerman will be in effect until complete melt out later this spring/summer. We are no longer monitoring conditions in Huntington Ravine.

The snowpack in the bowl has melted considerably over the last couple weeks, exacerbating many of the springtime hazards while the snow stability has become very good. There appears to be a mix of weather conditions during the period of this advisory, including thunderstorms, mixed precipitation, freezing temperatures, and maybe even some sunshine. Be sure to get the latest weather forecast before heading uphill.

BE AWARE OF THE ANNUAL SPRINGTIME HAZARDS IN TUCKERMAN RAVINE:

- **FALLING ICE.** Over the years many people have been severely injured or killed by falling ice in Tuckerman. The most hazardous locations are in the center and right side of the ravine, including Lunch Rocks, the Sluice, Lip, and Center Bowl. Warm weather and rain increase the potential for icefall to occur. There is still a lot of ice hanging waiting to fall. Avoid spending time in high risk areas such as under the headwall or at Lunch Rocks.
- **CREVASSES AND WATERFALL HOLES.** These are growing larger in many locations; the most dangerous are in the Lip and Center Bowl. Give them plenty of room, since they are often much larger beneath the surface than what you can see from above. Breaking through weak snow into one of these could be fatal for you or someone in your group. The best way to avoid the hazard is by climbing up what you plan to descend and giving these areas plenty of space.
- **UNDERMINED SNOW.** As the snowpack continues to get thinner, this problem gets worse. It is most prominent in places where there is flowing water beneath the snowpack, which includes most of the gullies. While the snow may appear thick and strong on top, you won't really know how strong or weak until you cause it to collapse underneath you. If you see small holes in the snow or near large rocks, realize there may be large open spaces under the surface.
- **LONG SLIDING FALLS.** Temperatures often fall below freezing even late into spring. Snow surfaces become very hard and icy, making a slip, trip, or fall a very serious situation. Good terrain choices, as well as proper equipment such as an ice axe and crampons, are your best defense.

THE LIP AREA HAS ALL OF THE HAZARDS LISTED ABOVE, AS WELL AS THE MAIN WATERFALL HOLE. TRAVEL IN THIS AREA IS NOT RECOMMENDED. This terrain is a "no fall zone," where the consequences of a slip at any point can be dire. We expect to be closing this area and this section of the Tuckerman Ravine hiking trail through the ravine very soon. This is an annual closure due to the unique hazards posed to hikers and skiers. When the closure happens, we will let you know through signage and in the advisory.

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.
- For more information contact the Forest Service Snow Rangers, the AMC at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, or the caretakers at Hermit Lake Shelters.

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