

General Bulletin for Tuckerman Ravine

Expires at 12:00 midnight Tuesday, May 10, 2016

A General Bulletin is in effect for Tuckerman Ravine. A new General Bulletin will be issued within 72 hours or when conditions warrant. We are no longer monitoring conditions in Huntington Ravine.

Rain that began overnight on Saturday will continue through Sunday, changing to sleet and snow as temperatures begin to drop around midday. By the end of the day, accumulations may reach 4" in certain isolated areas. Winds will dramatically increase through the day, reaching 90mph by dark, then gradually diminishing overnight. Temperatures will bottom out Sunday night in the lower teens, rebounding slightly on Monday, but still not reaching the freezing mark. High pressure will move in Monday night and linger for the duration of the week, creating clear skies, sunshine, and corn snow.

We continue to recommend the left (south) side, such as Left gully and the Chute, over traveling in the center or right side of the Ravine. Remarkably, Left Gully is hanging in there pretty well and can still be skied into the floor of the Bowl. The Chute has good coverage from the top of the hourglass down. Above the hourglass has melted out and is now at the point where it's more steep bushwhacking than skiing. Although general mountain risks should be considered on the left side, the objective hazards are dramatically less than the rest of the Ravine. Areas immediately adjacent to and under the closed "Lip" area on the right side have all of the hazards listed below; travel in this area is not recommended. In addition to being the bulls-eye for icefall, it should be avoided because it's "no fall terrain" due to holes, rocks, and crevasses. The consequences of a slip or fall here could lead to the worst possible outcome.

Spring Hazards in Tuckerman Ravine:

1. **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. Avoid spending time in high risk areas such as under the Headwall or at Lunch Rocks, more aptly known as "Icefall Rocks".
2. **CREVASSES, HOLES, AND UNDERMINED SNOW** – Collectively these are growing larger in many locations; the most dangerous in the Center Bowl over to the Lip on the lookers right side of the Ravine. Breaking through weak snow into one of has been the cause of numerous past fatalities. Generally, climbing up what you plan to descend will allow you to see most of these hazards for your descent and realize there may be large open spaces under the surface near these holes.
3. **LONG SLIDING FALLS** – Temperatures often fall below freezing even late into spring. Additionally, age hardening can create very dense alpine ice that remains very slick even on warmer days. Snow surfaces become very hard and icy, making a slip, trip, or fall a very serious situation. Good terrain choices and proper equipment, such as an ice axe and crampons, are your best defense.

A section of the Tuckerman Ravine Trail is closed to all use. This is due to the severe consequences of a fall in this area. The closed section extends from the top of Lunch Rocks to the junction of the Alpine Garden Trail above the ravine. Only this section is closed. Hiking or skiing in the vicinity of the closed trail is not permitted. (**ATTENTION AUX RANDONNEURS!** Une section du sentier du Tuckerman Ravine est présentement fermé à toutes les activités. Cette section est située entre Lunch Rocks et le sommet du Headwall jusqu'ou ce dernier rejoint le sentier du Alpine Garden. Cette fermeture inclut également toute activité de descente dans le secteur du Lip. Seulement cette section du sentier est fermé. Cette fermeture annuelle est due à l'ampleur des crevasses et à la gravité qu'occasionnerait une chute dans ce secteur.)

Please Remember:

- A General Bulletin is issued when snow instabilities may exist, but are isolated with the forecast areas. You will need to make your own snow stability assessments when traveling in avalanche terrain. This bulletin is just one tool to help you make your own decisions. 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.
- **Posted 8:45am, Sunday, May 8, 2016. A new bulletin will be issued when conditions warrant.**

Helon Hoffer, Snow Ranger, USDA Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest