

General Bulletin for Sunday, May 15, 2016

Expires Tuesday, May 17 at 12:00 midnight

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. **Remember that avalanche activity may occur under a General Bulletin so always make your own snow stability assessments when traveling in avalanche terrain.**

Wintry conditions are returning to the higher summits once again with new snow and freezing conditions expected on Sunday and Monday. High winds and low visibility during that period will also hamper your ability to navigate above tree-line. Though forecast snow totals are unlikely to create significant avalanche problems, the new snow may obscure the various crevasses, moats around boulders and thin snow bridges over the stream in the floor of Tuckerman. Below freezing temperatures overnight tonight will drop further on Monday, eventually reaching the mid-teens on Monday night. As a result, trails above tree-line will become icy again so don't forget your micro-spikes. Snowfields and slopes will refreeze at some point today and likely remain rock solid Monday and Tuesday making crampons and an ice axe essential tools as the refreeze occurs.

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. Sluice ice has fallen but other large chunks of ice are still clinging to the Headwall and Center Bowl area. In addition to being in the bulls-eye for icefall, the center and right side of the Bowl should be avoided because it's also "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:

- **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".
- **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 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. Expect new snow to hide some of these threats.
- **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. Very hard and icy surfaces make a slip, trip, or fall a very serious situation so good terrain choices and judgement as well as proper equipment, like an ice axe and crampons, are your best defense. The bottom sections of popular runs are also melting uphill making it possible to fall into rocks and terrain features while still in steep terrain.

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'où 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:

- 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.
- **Posted 7:00am, Sunday, May 15, 2016. A new advisory will be issued when warranted.**