

# General Bulletin for Huntington and Tuckerman Ravines

**A new bulletin will be issued 2-3 times per week or when conditions warrant.**

We are no longer issuing daily avalanche advisories this season for Tuckerman and Huntington Ravine. However, we will continue to provide snowpack and weather information for these areas when conditions change drastically and in time to help you make, or change, weekend plans. Avalanches, falling rocks and ice, undermined snow, large glide cracks, and icy refrozen surfaces will remain a threat in and below steep terrain as long as snow remains in the mountains.

Rain and possibly thunderstorms on Friday will set up a clearing pattern for Saturday. Temperatures close to the freezing mark to start Saturday combined with wind speeds over 100mph on the summit may make a late start the right choice as winds may drop to a more reasonable speed later in the afternoon. Rain on Sunday will be followed by what looks like a good corn cycle next week with sunny skies, warm days and colder nights. An isothermal snowpack has reduced the concerns for large avalanches, though history has shown that intense periods of heavy rain can make the waterfall hole in the Lip do strange things no matter what the snowpack is. Sluff management should be a priority for skiers, in particular the first several of the day on each slope.

**The following objective hazards have all caused fatalities and should factor in when planning your route:**

- **Icefall:** All visible ice will fall down at some point, often in large chunks that travel at high rates of speed. The most hazardous locations are in the center and looker's 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. Speed is safety when passing under any ice flow.
- **Glide cracks and waterfall holes:** As the snowpack gradually gives way to gravity and creeps downhill, it pulls away from cliffs and leaves cracks that are most visible in the extreme terrain, particularly the Lip. These glide cracks will grow larger and increase in number. The large waterfall hole in the Lip has spawned large and destructive wet slab avalanches in the past in times of heavy rain.
- **Undermined snow:** In addition to melting on the surface, the snowpack is eroded by running water beneath. This creates thin snow bridges that will collapse and are most prevalent in areas that have streams (Little Headwall) and the tops of south-facing gullies. The sound of running water can sometimes be heard under the snow and is a good indicator of this hazard.
- **Long, sliding falls:** Spring corn snow comes from the melt/freeze cycles on warm days and cold nights. The freeze portion of this cycle can turn a gully full of corn snow into sheet of concrete remarkably fast, turning what would be a great ski descent into a down climb that requires crampons and an ice axe.

The Winter Lion Head Route is still open due to the amount of snow on the Summer Trail. The Sherburne Ski Trail is open down to crossover #3, or where the rope is across the trail. Expect this closure to move uphill as the weekend progresses. Please respect the rope, cross over to the Tuckerman Ravine Trail, and hike down to Pinkham.

## **Please Remember:**

- Safe travel in avalanche terrain requires training and experience. This bulletin 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.
- **Posted 8:30am Friday, May 4, 2018. A new bulletin will be issued when conditions warrant.**

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