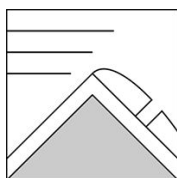


### The Bottom Line

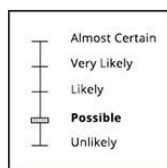
New snow on the summit Tuesday night was carried and deposited on south and east facing terrain yesterday. It will be possible to trigger avalanches in these newly formed slabs on wind-loaded slopes. Heightened avalanche conditions exist in much of the terrain due to these new wind slabs. Identify these wind slabs in the terrain and evaluate them for their ability to propagate a crack before committing to a slope. South and east facing aspects have earned a solid **MODERATE** rating today due to this problem. Remember that wind slabs can easily be 5-10 times as thick as the new snow from which they are made. The Left side and Boott Spur in Tuckerman Ravine have a **LOW** rating due to predominantly older wind slab there after scouring yesterday. Continue to watch for unstable snow there.

### Mountain Weather

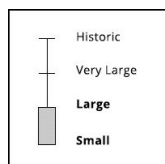
2.4" of new snow fell on the summit Tuesday night and into the morning yesterday. Early on, winds were light from the northwest in the 30-40 mph range. Winds ramped up through the day, moving snow in the process, with wind speeds up to 83 mph on the summit. Conditions are currently calm, with 14F and SSW wind in the single numbers. Winds are light and from the south this morning. Temperatures will reach 17F with wind increasing to 20-35 mph from the west.



Wind Slab



Chance



Size

### Primary Avalanche Problem

Wind slabs that formed yesterday are the primary avalanche concern today. Northwest winds blew across the expanse of flat terrain that exists above treeline and dropped the new snow into east and south facing terrain. Some areas with this aspect, downwind of the most fruitful fetch, (think Sluice in Tucks) may have new slabs around 2' thick. The new wind slabs are likely to be softer and more reactive to human-triggering than the wind slabs that have lingered as a hazard through the week.

### Snowpack Observations

Signs of direct loading and cross-loading were obvious yesterday as visibility improved in the late morning. Two small human-triggered avalanches were reported in the afternoon in terrain with a southerly aspect (Right Gully in Tuckerman Ravine) in this wind slab. Fair stability was reported in Gulf of Slides mid-afternoon with a report of mostly firm and stubborn old wind slab in Hillman's Highway. Hermit Lake and Gray Knob both reported 2 cm of snow during the same period that the summit received 2.4". This disparity is pretty common after cold frontal passages or other weak disturbances where the orographic effect plays a larger role in snowfall.

### 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 at the Harvard Cabin.



**Avalanche Forecast for Thursday, December 13, 2018**  
**This expires at midnight.**