

Avalanche Forecast for Friday, January 4, 2018
This forecast expires at midnight.

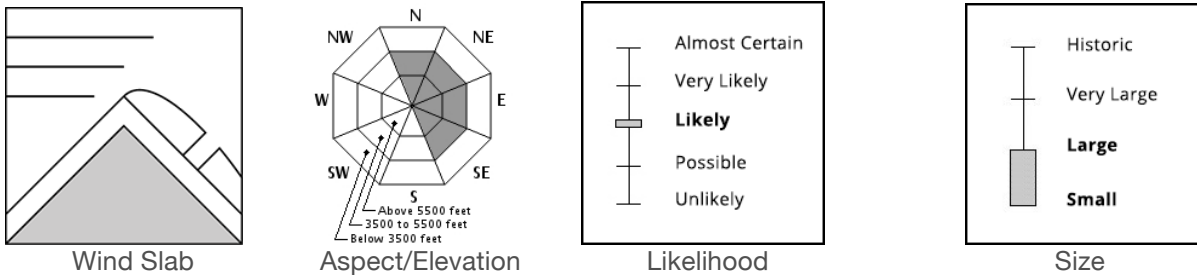
The Bottom Line

Ten inches of new snow fell in the past 36 hours. West wind, possible sunshine, and rapidly warming temperatures this afternoon will combine to continue the threat of natural avalanches. Wind slabs forming this morning are likely to be touchy to a human trigger and may fail naturally with no help from a person. All upper elevation avalanche paths, particularly larger slopes and gullies in the eastern half of the compass rose, are rated **CONSIDERABLE** today. Lower elevation slopes and gullies not affected by wind or with less new snow are rated **MODERATE**. Intense sunshine on a slope could wet and weaken the snow in these wind slabs. Today is a good day to stay in terrain below 30 degrees and out of larger, wind loaded avalanche paths.

Mountain Weather

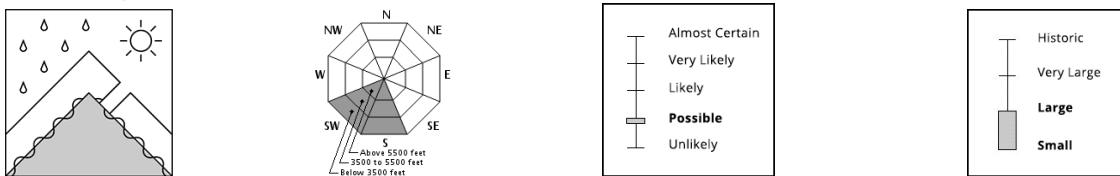
Wednesday night brought 7-8" of new, very low density snow (6%) to the higher elevations of the Presidential range. Light snow continued off and on yesterday, with steadier snowfall again last night, bringing another 2" of slightly denser (8%) snow to Hermit Lake. Wind speeds remained low by local standards through yesterday afternoon, blowing in the 50 mph range on the summit while shifting from the WSW to WNW. Wind speed this morning has ramped up to a steadier 50-60 mph, with 70 mph recorded at 6am. Temperatures remained cold at 7F overnight though the warming trend is starting as of 6am. Wind may gust a bit higher this morning before diminishing this afternoon as skies clear and temperatures warm to the upper 20s F on the summit. Periods of sun at lower elevations and facing the sun may push the mercury above freezing.

Primary Avalanche Problem



Wind slab avalanche danger remains today as winds increase to a speed well suited to moving snow into reactive slabs. These slabs may be touchy in steep terrain due to the soft, low density snow beneath the wind drifted snow. These wind slabs could be triggered from below and may fail wall to wall in a gully. Signs of wind loading may be hard to identify this morning as summit fog lingers.

Secondary Avalanche Problem



Intense sunshine on a steep slope could wet and weaken the snow in existing wind slabs. Narrow gullies can intensify this effect. Air temperature will warm this afternoon and set the stage for solar gain to affect the snow if skies clear.

Please Remember:

- Safe travel in avalanche terrain requires training and experience. This forecast is just one of many decision making tools.
- You control your own risk by choosing where, when, and how you travel.
- Understand that the avalanche danger may change when actual weather differs from the weather 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.