

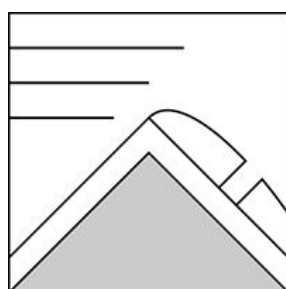
### The Bottom Line

You may find small wind slabs in isolated areas of lee terrain today though both natural and human-triggered avalanches are unlikely. These slabs were deposited since yesterday's rain and though likely to be stubborn they are resting on an icy crust. They may grow a little larger as an inch or so of new snow falls today. The refrozen surface snow creates a dangerous slide-for-life situation, even on lower angled slopes that you might hike on the approach to ice climbs or on a summit hike. Crampons and an ice axe and a strong focus to avoid falling are needed today. Undermined snow, damaged and increasingly brittle ice, ice dams building in the falling temperatures, and strong wind will keep alpine conditions very real today.

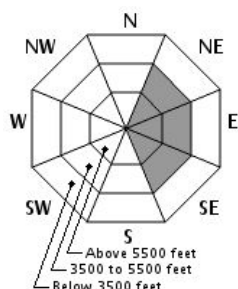
### Mountain Weather

An inch and a quarter of rain fell through the day Thursday, all the way to 6,288'. Daytime temperatures yesterday hovered around the mid-30's F for almost 12 hours. Around sundown, SW wind shifted to the west and precipitation changed back over to snow on the summit as temperatures fell to more seasonal readings. Almost 3" of snow was collected at the summit yesterday afternoon with only a trace to 1" of snow at our snow study plots. Since that time west-northwest winds blew around 70 mph. High winds this morning will taper, as skies clear a bit mid-day, before increasing again later this afternoon. After reaching a high of 5F midday, summit temps will fall to -20F overnight. Upslope snow showers could bring a trace to an inch of snow today with another trace to two inches of snow overnight.

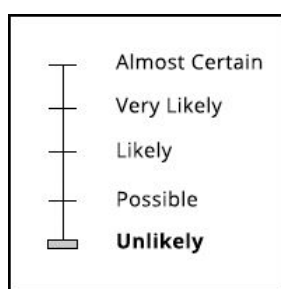
### Primary Avalanche Problem



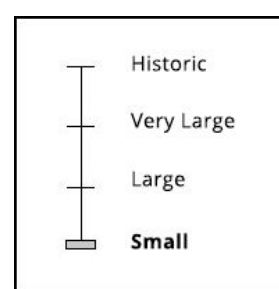
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Small wind slabs may be reactive to a human-trigger. These should be easily identified in contrast to the hard refrozen snow that now dominates the upper snowpack.

### Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

Heavy rain and low visibility yesterday made field observations an unattractive option for many reasons. Given the firmness of the wind slabs in the terrain prior to the rain, we expected wet slab natural activity to be a possibility but not particularly likely in most areas. This type of rain on firm wind slab event has a history of not avalanching in widespread ways but does sometimes produce wet slabs and wet sluffs from icy bed surfaces. Typically, our wind pounded snow transforms into a rock-hard, tilted skating rink following a good soaking rain, though lower elevation softer snow often remains breakable. Anticipate breakable snow at mid and lower elevations with the potential for flowing water beneath.

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**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.