

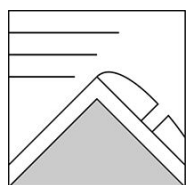
### The Bottom Line

Dense new snow and growing wind slabs will make natural avalanches possible on steep slopes throughout the Presidential Range today. Human-triggered avalanches are likely and will be large enough to bury and kill a person on open slopes and gullies. More snow will fall through the day as the wind shifts west and increases in speed. Existing wind slabs will increase in size as this occurs and make natural avalanches likely in larger east facing terrain such as the Headwall area of Tuckerman Ravine and possibly the Gulf of Slides. Those areas, which have more snow available upwind, will have HIGH avalanche danger. Today is a good day to avoid recreating on or beneath steep slopes over 30 degrees. Areas beneath larger east facing slopes like the Bowl in Tuckerman Ravine or the terrain traps below slopes in the Gulf of Slides are best avoided today.

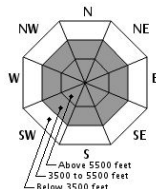
### Mountain Weather

The summit Observatory weather station is reporting .63" snow water equivalent so far with a SE wind overnight blowing 50-60 mph with gusts to 82 mph. Nine inches of snow has fallen at Hermit Lake with 8" reported at Gray Knob. Temperatures have slowly warmed on the summit from 5F when the snow started late yesterday afternoon to the current 12F. Temperatures aloft have warmed as well causing precipitation types to change over to sleet this morning. More snow is forecast today with SE winds continuing at 35-50 mph gusting to 60. Wind will shift to the west mid-day and continue to blow at speeds more than capable of blowing snow into east facing avalanche terrain. This west wind will ramp up through the evening and overnight ultimately shifting NW as it reaches the 55-75 mph range.

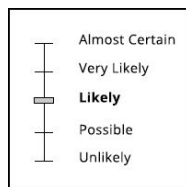
### Primary Avalanche Problem



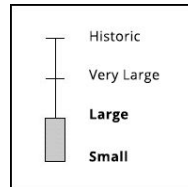
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



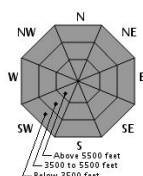
Size

Wind slabs will be a factor across many aspects today due to the shift in wind direction. If you are thinking of tangling with steep terrain today, don't be fooled by what appear to be low wind speeds. Wind slabs developed on higher wind speeds overnight and the brief lull in wind speeds this morning won't change the likelihood of a natural avalanche very much.

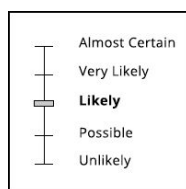
### Secondary Avalanche Problem



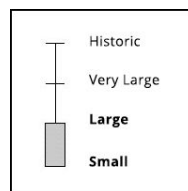
Storm Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Dense snow over an icy bed surface make widespread storm slabs dangerous in most all avalanche terrain today. Due to the density of the snow, lower wind speeds in sheltered terrain may not be able to easily move the new snow. Anywhere that this new snow exists on a slope over 30 degrees will likely be easy to trigger. Consider the size of slopes above and the terrain traps and cliffs that may be below you.

### Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

The icy bed surface beneath the new snow and sleet that are creating today's avalanche problem is a strong factor to include in your risk assessment today. This icy bed surface adds complexity to today's travel plan and would make any avalanche easy to trigger, potentially wider or wall to wall in a gully, and really hard to escape.

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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.