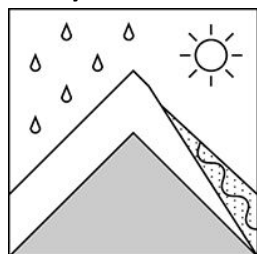


The Bottom Line

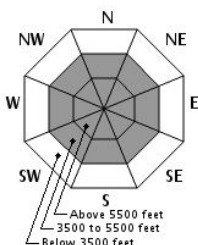
Wet loose avalanches will remain small and shallow, but have the power to carry you over a cliff or down long couloirs. These will most likely be produced by skier-induced sluff and are more of an issue in very steep terrain or terrain that has seen little to no skier traffic. Following safe travel rules like skiing one at a time and not crossing above your partner is a great way to manage today's avalanche problem. **LOW** avalanche danger exists today; those traveling to the more out-there ravines or steeper lines should be discussing sluff management techniques before dropping in. As springtime temperatures melt the snow, our snowpack is becoming undermined and developing holes. If you can hear water rushing under the snow you are skiing, the potential for the snow to collapse is present. Keeping an eye on your partner on the streambed exit from today's objective will be a good idea.

Mountain Weather

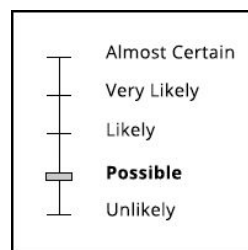
At midnight, summit temperatures dropped below freezing after 36 hours of staying in the 30sF and twice peeking into the 40s. Cloud cover Friday and Saturday morning helped slow rates of warming and allowed the snowpack to adjust appropriately to the change. Today is beginning clear and windy. Wind from the west will decrease and eventually shift to the south. Temperatures will climb slightly, allowing the summit to reach near the freezing mark. Clouds will develop through the day and bring precipitation in the late afternoon with close to half an inch of liquid falling by daybreak on Monday. The freezing line is a bit uncertain. Rain is likely at some point at all elevations with possible mixed precip or snow falling at upper elevations this evening and tonight.

Primary Avalanche Problem


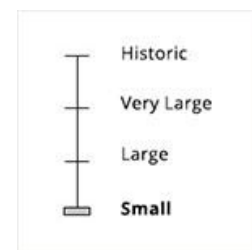
Wet Loose



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Wet loose avalanches, particularly on very steep slopes or those which have not seen skier traffic, are possible to human-trigger. Wet loose avalanches can occur when free water is present in the surface snow and release at or below the trigger point. Today, these should remain small and shallow, but still have the power to carry skiers or riders downslope if unaware.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

This time of year, transition can happen quickly. This is being reflected in the surface of the snow. With the summit of Mount Washington above freezing from mid-morning on Friday to midnight last night, our snowpack quickly warmed and wetted to become isothermal to at least 1 meter in depth. While this spring snowpack provides opportunities for great skiing and riding, it still has the potential to change rapidly, even hour to hour. Shade and cloud cover can quickly turn spring skiing to hard, refrozen snow and create a long, sliding fall potential. Timing and sun exposure are critical to finding great skiing. Spring melting also creates large voids under the snowpack and even holes in the surface. Open holes are now visible in places such as the Lip in Tuckerman and likely the Little Headwall by the end of today.

Helon Hoffer, Snow Ranger; USDA Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest; (603)466-2713 TTY (603)466-2858

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.