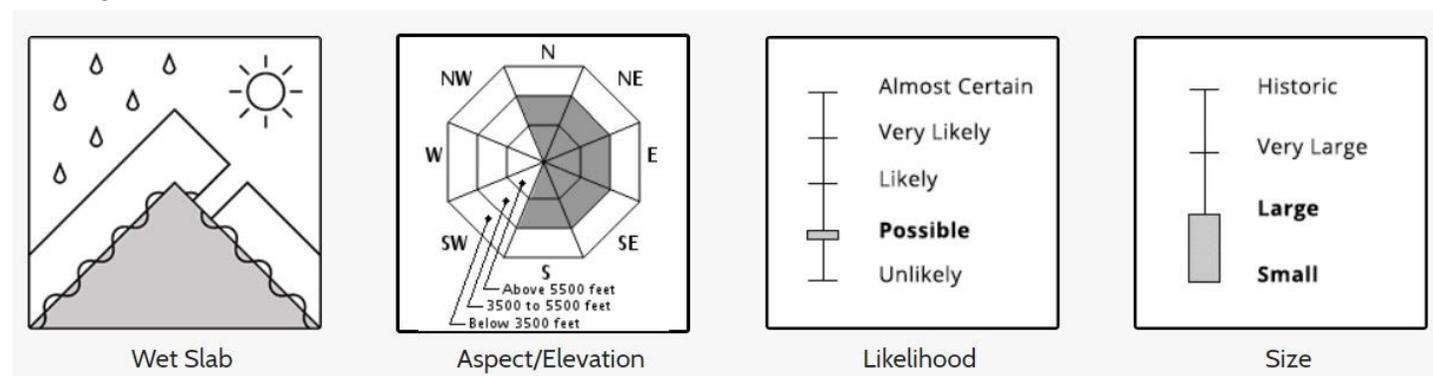


The Bottom Line

Rain and warm air makes human triggered avalanches possible today giving us a MODERATE danger rating today. This avalanche danger will continue through the weekend and only decrease when our snowpack refreezes, possibly Sunday night. Today is a great day to avoid steep terrain, and also areas under steep terrain where debris from an avalanche sweeps through. The floor of Tuckerman Ravine and the bottom of Gully #1 in the Gulf of Slides are examples of this.

Warm air brings concern for falling ice anywhere there are ice cliffs, particularly hanging ice at Frankenstein Cliffs in Crawford's Notch.

Primary Avalanche Problem



After multiple days of snowfall, west winds loading and building wind slabs, rain today will infiltrate and consequently weaken the snowpack. Exacerbating this problem, these slabs are resting on an icy bed surface that has been proven to be a contributor to naturally occurring avalanches earlier in the week. This avalanche problem exists not only high in steep terrain, but at the bottom of ravine gullies where sluffing snow piles up.

An additional concern is the known and unknown water courses that run under the snowpack when we see significant melting and rain. The Lip area of the headwall has proven itself to fail catastrophically during extreme warm rain events.

It's worth mentioning that predicting wet snow instability involves a higher than normal amount of uncertainty. It would be wise to factor that into your decision making if you venture into the mountains today.

Mountain Weather

Overnight temperatures in the Presidential Range were above freezing, with the summit of Mt Washington rising above freezing at approximately 2am. Warming will continue possibly reaching 40 F on the summit today. Light rain this morning will become steady rain this afternoon with .25" of rain expected before dark. Rain will continue overnight into tomorrow delivering as much as 1.8" of rain for the weekend total. Wind will be from the west at 80-100 mph with gusts to 140 mph.

Jeff Fongemie, 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.