

The Bottom Line

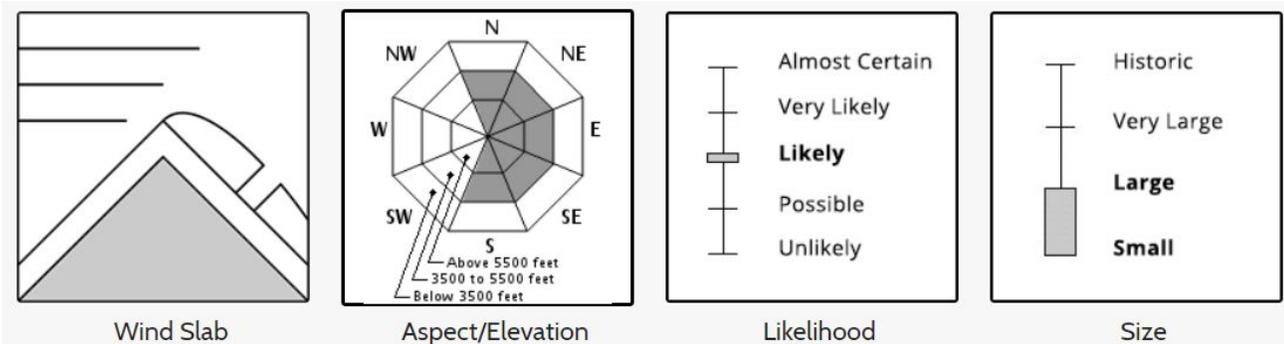
CONSIDERABLE danger exists for new and developing wind drifts primarily in steep east facing terrain and cross loaded gullies as moderate wind moves new snow from above the ravines, onto the steep slopes in the ravines.

Drifted snow may release naturally in the steepest terrain, and are likely to avalanche from a human trigger. Prime locations for this in Tuckerman Ravine will include the apron of Chute, to Sluice and everything in between.

Steep wind drifted slopes should be approached with caution, especially if visibility is poor reducing your ability to fully assess the terrain above or below you.

Mountain Weather

The Presidential Range received 5" of 11.6% snow Saturday on a 65 mph south east wind, and another 1" yesterday evening on a 50-60 mph west wind. A trace to 3" of new snow is possible today with wind holding west to north west at 30-45 increasing to 45 – 60 mph in the afternoon. Temperatures will be in the mid teens F. Snow showers tonight and tomorrow may bring another inch or two of snow.

Avalanche Problem


West-Northwest wind will transport new snow, and any available remaining snow above treeline from Saturday's 5" into new wind slabs primarily in steep east facing terrain and cross loaded gullies. These new wind slabs will add weight and stress to already existing wind slabs formed from the Saturday snow. With current and forecast wind speeds, new wind slabs will likely be sensitive to a human trigger. Watch for shooting cracks as a warning red flag. A lingering issue that should also steer conservative terrain choices is a weak layer of snow sitting just above the ice crust formed January 11 – 12 buried by subsequent storms. While unlikely, it's not impossible that an avalanche today, could provide enough energy to step down to this weak layer resulting in a much larger avalanche.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

As avalanche forecasters, we all keep a mental model of the snowpack in our heads that remains front and center from November to June. This mental model acts as an evolving image of the snow structure, which is redrawn whenever new information is applied. New information could be field time with observations and stability tests, weather data and public observations. See <https://mountwashingtonavalanchecenter.org> for more on this.

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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.