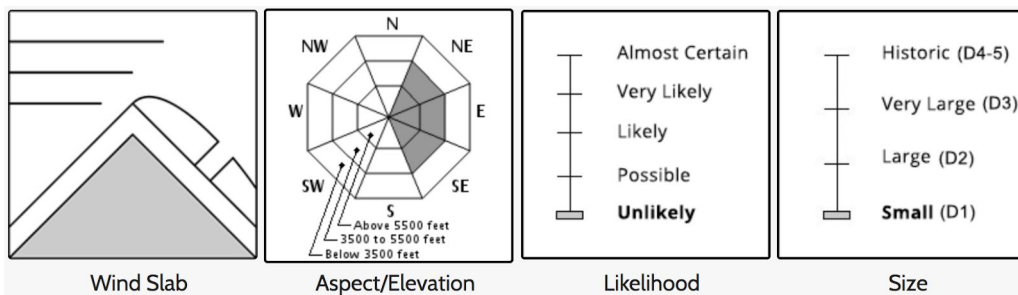


The Bottom Line

Light freezing rain fell at 5,000' in Tuckerman Ravine yesterday, reducing avalanche concerns primarily to new wind slabs which may have developed overnight. These wind slabs will likely be found in isolated areas and limited to very well sheltered areas protected from the strong west winds that blew overnight. There is **LOW** avalanche danger today though normal precautions are advised, especially in the steepest, sheltered east facing terrain in mid to high elevations.

Mountain Weather

Yesterday: A humid day with a high temperature of 23F on the summit. Light snow showers fell on the highest summit with freezing rain occurring between there and 5,000'. Wind from the west rose through the day, gusting at 80mph near midnight. **Today:** Clearing skies, strong winds and temperatures in the single digits on the summits. Wind will diminish to 35-50 mph today as cloud cover returns. **Tomorrow:** Wind will shift to the southeast as active weather returns. 3-6" new snow tomorrow with the threat of a transition to mixed precipitation in the afternoon as temps rise to the upper 20's F on the summit.

Primary Avalanche Problem


Older wind slabs in the terrain which exist above the stout melt freeze crust generally lacked energy for propagating a crack even late last week. Mild weather has been the norm for the past week with settlement and bonding the trend. No avalanches have been reported in these thicker wind slabs though the snow structure was inverted in many areas where soft, rimed snow had drifted deeply and was capped with thin wind slabs. Several dense layers of MFC with a ZR crust near the surface deadened any significant reactivity. Moderate stability tests recently and no avalanches isn't a green light to abandon safe travel techniques but avalanches remain unlikely through most of the range. The older wind slabs will be loaded by new snowfall tomorrow.

Forecast Discussion

Low tide continues for our region for one more day. Tomorrow will turn that story around, at least to some degree, with new snow from another coastal storm arriving over the next couple of days. An inch and a half of snow water equivalent is possible by the end of the second system on Friday and while deep powder doesn't seem to be in the cards, slopes will get refreshed by mostly frozen precipitation forms. Multiple upslope continue our trend of normal levels of precipitation, but of the unfrozen variety at times, especially at lower elevations.

Additional Information

The Sherburne and Gulf of Slides ski trails are snow covered to Pinkham Notch with good skiing most of the way down. Beware of breakable crusts off trail.

Frank Carus, 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.