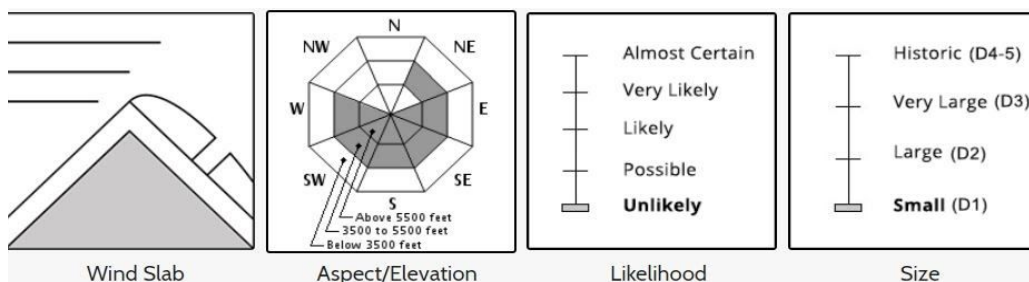


**The Bottom Line**

You will find a variety of wind slabs in avalanche terrain on many aspects of the compass. Generally safe avalanche conditions exist. Watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features today as yesterday's inch of snow will have formed small wind slabs. Skiers should recognize that softer areas of snow are these isolated pockets. Long, sliding falls are possible today thanks to midweek wind scouring some of our terrain to icy surfaces or depositing pencil hard wind slabs that may require crampons for ascending. Even a small avalanche today could have severe consequences if you are unable to arrest a fall. Avalanche danger today is **LOW**: watch for unstable snow that could produce a small avalanche on isolated terrain.

**Avalanche Problem**


Small wind slabs formed from Friday's inch of snow. These formed on easterly wind and will be found primarily on W through S aspects, but beware cross loading on other aspects. Watch for thin spots in the slab or softer snow that may be found near buttresses, rock outcrops, or trees as isolated pockets that could produce a small avalanche. Older wind slabs that formed mid-week have proven unreactive and lie primarily on easterly aspects. While these older slabs are largely hard, some softer areas can be found; that being said, the strength, structure, and energy of this older snow all point to good stability.

**Mountain Weather**

Yesterday, the summit of Washington recorded 1.2" of snow with less than half an inch being recorded at each of our snowplots at lower elevations. This arrived during the late afternoon/evening and fell as wind direction shifted from S to NE. Wind speeds were around 20mph mid-afternoon and increased during hours of snowfall to the 40mph range. Today will be clear with wind shifting from the current NE to NW by mid-afternoon. The current wind speed of 40mph should increase to 70mph and then drop back below 50mph for the evening. No snow is forecast today. Tomorrow will be clear and windy, with gusts possibly exceeding 100mph in the morning. A slight chance of upslope snow exists in the afternoon.

**Forecast Discussion**

Wind from the east is not rare for us, but certainly not the norm. The inch that fell on the summit yesterday fell on increasing wind from the NE. As you head into terrain today, bear in mind that routes normally used to manage wind slab formed on a westerly wind may be places that have isolated pockets of concern today. Good visibility today will either prove or disprove this theory as it was only an inch of snow, but as we all know, Low avalanche danger does not mean no avalanche danger.

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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.