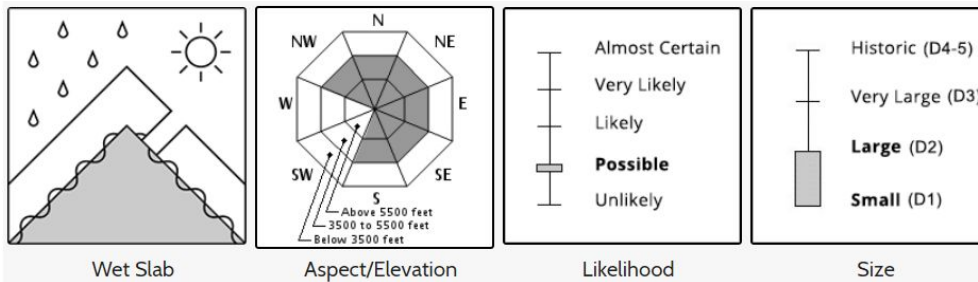


**The Bottom Line**

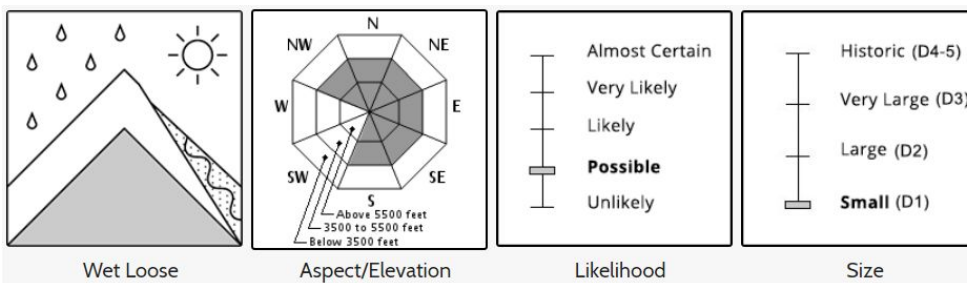
Snow will get wet today. As the day progresses with warm temperatures continuing and eventually rain, wet avalanches will become possible to trigger. When traveling through terrain, monitor snow underfoot for how deep the snow is getting wet. Boot top wet snow is a sign stability has decreased. MODERATE avalanche danger exists today as wet snow avalanches become possible. In addition, watch for falling ice today as temperatures work to delaminate ice from rock.

**Primary Avalanche Problem**



Wet slab avalanches may be triggered in any place that contained soft snow yesterday (our recent wind slab problem). Largely, the size should be small, but possible to trigger. You may be able to produce an avalanche capable of burying a person in due east facing terrain such as the Headwall in Tuckerman or one of the numbered gullies in Gulf of Slides. The fact that these wetting slabs sit on a stout ice crust exacerbates today's avalanche problem. This crust may act as a barrier for melt, becoming the layer that gets lubricated with a slab of wetting snow sitting on top. Watch for mushy snow or heavy rain as an indicator that the danger of wet slabs is increasing.

**Secondary Avalanche Problem**



Wet loose avalanches are possible due to above freezing air temperatures that have warmed the snow surface. These "sluff" avalanches should be small and localized to the steepest terrain. Watch for pinwheels or rollerballs as indicators that the snow surface is wetting and wet loose avalanches are trending. These most often cause harm by entraining your skis and dragging you over a cliff or into a terrain trap.

**Mountain Weather**

**Yesterday**, a trace of snowfall on 30mph wind from the south brought our snow total since last week's warm-up to 3". Temperatures yesterday started cold and ended the day above freezing. **Today** at 6am, temperatures are:

- Mount Washington (6288'): 35F
- Gray Knob (4370'): 42F
- Hermit Lake (3800'): 45F

Temperatures will maintain these numbers through daylight hours, possibly increasing. Wind at 6am is from the SW at 45mph and will shift to the W and increase toward 100mph by dark. Rain is forecast today with up to a half inch of water by midnight. Mid-afternoon has the greatest chance of heavy rain.

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.