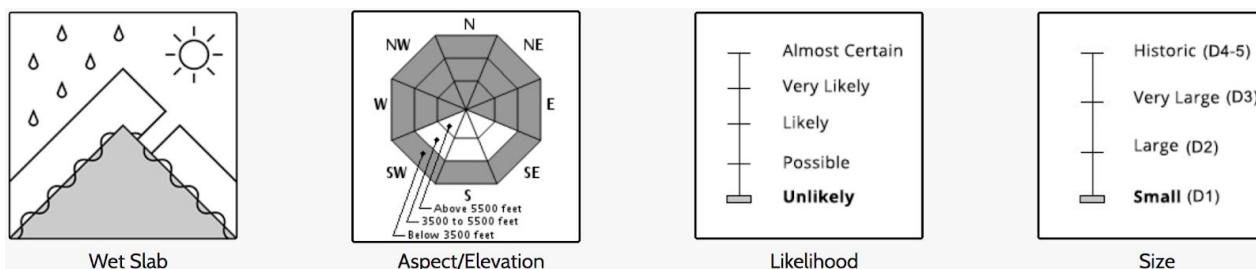


The Bottom Line

Rain falling on new snow that falls this morning may create conditions for small, wet snow avalanches in isolated areas or extreme terrain. Yesterday, snow surfaces in most avalanche terrain were refrozen and hard and are likely to remain so until warming occurs midday. **LOW** avalanche danger exists today. If you brave the icy snow surfaces, mixed precipitation or rain, depending on your elevation, watch for unstable snow on isolated terrain features.

Avalanche Problem


Wet slab avalanches may be triggered in wind sheltered areas that contain any soft snow. The danger level and size of any wet slab activity is dependent mostly on enough new snow accumulating and forming wind slabs before becoming wet. History has shown that more rain or a softer snowpack would be required for a more dangerous Lip waterfall avalanche to occur today. Wet loose activity should be limited in size and remain mostly harmless.

Mountain Weather

Yesterday was cloudy and cool with snow and ice on the ground remaining cold down to around 3,000'. No new precipitation was recorded. Today expect sleet, freezing rain and some snow accompanied by increasing wind, mostly from the south. This morning is starting out with light snow showers that may bring 1-3" and wind from the south at 50mph. Temperatures at 5:30am were 17F on the summit, 29F at Pinkham. Precipitation will change to sleet and rain midday before changing back to snow in the evening. All total, around an inch of SWE should accumulate during the day. Tomorrow, wind will continue to increase, ultimately hitting the century mark with gusts to 120mph from the NW. Temperatures will fall Friday night to around 7F on the summit as upslope snow showers bring up to 2" new snow. Expect increased avalanche danger and wind slabs.

Forecast Discussion

This morning, forecasters shared stories about miserable mountain experiences in the rain. Hardy folks may find adventure today with softening snow but you'll need rain gear and micro-spikes in your kit in addition to your beacon, probe, and shovel. Look out for spontaneous ice and rockfall from cliffs and gullies at most elevations along with deteriorating trail conditions where post-holing may occur even on previously packed trails.

Additional Information

The Sherburne and Gulf of Slides ski trails remain snow covered to Pinkham Notch. Snow coverage is remarkably good on most of these trails due to largely below freezing temperatures preserving this snow most of the winter.

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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.