

Avalanche Bulletin

Date February 13, 2019 Time 1300



Forecaster: Chris

NARRATIVE:

All Slopes:

Hey friends! After three weekends of low pressure systems locking me down inside the house I was super stoked to get out for a great ride today before the next one moves in! (I'm over doing taxes and paper work!) As always the mountains were inspiring and humbling both at the same time! Lots of 2-5 day old avalanches. In the Towers area I guess I saw more than 50! The snowpack is firm, mostly smooth and fast on the ride out. 60%-70% of the the snow was 5-18" of soft snow on deep firm base and the rest was wind-blown icy ridges. I observed avalanches on every aspect E & W having the most activity. It looks like one of these older lows laid down a massive ice crust. Then our second to last storm laid down super wet heavy snow with winds out of the E @ 20-30 or more in that area. Then this last storm was a bit dryer cooler snow with winds 30-50 out of the West. So east aspects had the biggest avalanches. Some crowns estimated at 6-10 ft. thick, 100-200 feet across at top and runouts were hundreds of feet long and some fan out 600-800 ft. That's the bad news. The good news is avalanche activity stopped in the last two or three days and its cooled down and everything is super bonded in the little data I observed. Like we could build some sick igloos. I'd like to keep an eye on that ice layer. Its right on the surface on the ridges and super deep in the wind loaded areas. Some sweet looking runs out there, wish I had time to ride one today.

DANGER RATING: (circle)

3 CONSIDERABLE

Dangerous avalanche conditions. Careful snowpack evaluation, cautious route finding and conservative decision-making essential.

AVALANCHE PROBLEMS: (select from other side)

Storm Slab	Release of a cohesive layer (slab) of new snow that breaks within new snow or on the old snow surface. Storm-slabs typically last a few hours to a few days following snowfall. If formed over a persistent weak layer, they may develop into Persistent Slabs.
Wind Slab	Release of a slab formed by wind. They are often smooth, sometimes sound hollow, and are soft or hard. They may develop into Persistent Slabs.
Persistent Slab	Release of a cohesive layer of snow in the middle to upper snowpack, when the bond to an underlying persistent weak layer breaks. Persistent layers include surface hoar, depth hoar, near-surface facets, or faceted snow. Persistent weak layers can continue to produce avalanches for months. AS new snow and wind creates a thicker slab on top of the persistent weak layer, a Deep Persistent Slab may develop
Cornice Fall	Release of an overhanging mass of snow that forms from wind loading over a ridge. Cornices vary widely in size. They can break off the terrain suddenly and pull back onto the ridgetop catching people by surprise even on the flat ground above the slope. Even small cornices can be deadly. Cornice Fall can also trigger avalanches below.

RECENT OBSERVATIONS:

Red Flags in past 48hrs	Aspect	Angle	Elevation	Area
Avalanches	E & W	All	All	Towers
Heavy Snowfall	Yes			Recent, entire area
Wind Loading	E & W			Recent strong winds

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS:

1 Pit North aspect:

- 250cm snow density F and P
- CT 20 non planer at 240cm
- ECTX no fracture or propagation hit as hard as I could.



BIG RUNOUT
CROWN FACE

