

Avalanche Bulletin

Date Jan 26-29, 2019 Time 1600



Forecaster: Ben Russ Sandy Jesse Bradley

NARRATIVE:

All Slopes:

Over the weekend we got a lot of fresh, heavy, wet, bottomless snow in Nome, with temps between 29-34F, and windy during the storm. With small snowshoes on we sank to our knees. Without snowshoes, we sank to our waist. The widetrack snowmobiles had difficulty going even on flat ground. The snow did pack quickly behind the machines and you could walk in our tracks, which were quickly covered up by continuing snow and wind. Sunday and Monday, there was some rain and continued wind. Tuesday and Wednesday totally clear and overnight temps in the teens and daytime highs around 20. The snow is now like concrete, and froze pretty smooth before the wind could turn it to sastrugi. There does not appear to be facets on top, just a windblown ice layer. The snowmobiles stay pretty much on top now. Boots still penetrate and below the 4 inch ice/concrete crust is sugar. Seems like typical dense slab over a weak layer? But the slab seems so hard that it can't move, and is very thin. The freezing level during the storm was around 1500-2000ft, above that should be nice snow filing in our couloirs and cruisers.

DANGER RATING: (circle)

2 MODERATE	3 CONSIDERABLE
Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern	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.
Wet Loose	Release of wet unconsolidated snow or slush. They typically occur in layers of wet snow near the surface, but may gouge into lower layers. They start as a point-release or sluff, and form a fan-shaped path.
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
Whumps/Cracks	All	Flat	200'	Snake River
Heavy Snowfall	All			Whole area
Wind Loading	All			Whole area

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS:

No pit data taken



STORM DAY JAN 26 2019



CLEAR WEATHER ON JAN 29 2019