

Avalanche Bulletin

Date March 8 2019 Time 1300



Observers: Ben, Chris, Sean and Joe
Location: Towers

NARRATIVE:

All Slopes:

Continued blizzard conditions are dumping massive amounts of snow on the Nome area. Temperatures are near the freezing point making for dense wet snow. Predominantly northeast winds are loading the southwest slopes and creating large cornices, however swirling winds in the mountains creates cornice danger on many aspects. In general, the new snow seems to be bonding well to old snow, creating very few layers in our snowpack observations. Avalanche probability is low, but the size could be quite large when released. A full profile snowpit on flat terrain revealed "very good" conditions, and a depth of 244cm. Later slope side pits showed no fracture or propagation tendencies, and the total snow depth was greater than 405cm.

DANGER RATING: (1 – 5)

2 MODERATE

Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern. Avoid terrain traps and travel slowly in whiteout conditions.

AVALANCHE PROBLEMS:

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.
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	SW, NE	35+	2000'	Towers
Heavy Snowfall	All			All areas
Wind Loading	All			Suspect wind loading on any aspect
Whiteout/Flat light	Yes			

WEATHER LINKS:

Forecast: <https://www.wunderground.com/forecast/us/ak/nome>
Significant Weather: <https://www.weather.gov/aawu/4panelsigwx>
Winds Aloft: <https://www.weather.gov/aawu/upperwinds>

DISCLAIMER

This bulletin was prepared by recreational users for information only. Conditions will change, often rapidly. Travel, ski and ride with caution. We encourage you to share your observations via email to ben@twinpeaksadventures.com, so that we may include them in our bulletin. Sign up at twinpeaksadventures.com/skiing to receive email alerts when updates are available.

