



# PM Operational Hazard and Risk Assessment

20190303 | 20190303 Time: 1830 | Guides Present: RB, PM, EW

## Field Weather Summary:

Elevation Observed		Sky		Precipitation		Estimated Wind @ Ridgeline		Temperature (C)		Snow Depth (cm)		
Low	High	AM	PM	AM	PM	Speed	Direction	High	Low	HN	HST	HS
7400	10000	CLR	FEW	nil	nil	L	WNW	Cool	-15	0	75-100	150-250

## Summary of today's weather trends and factors including pressure, visibility, radiation, snowfall distribution, wind drifted snow:

Cool and clear with surprisingly little solar impact except steep south at treeline, warmer below but still cooler than expected.

## Snowpack Observations:

### Summary of observations including penetration, snowpack tests/location, relevency/results; layer extent, past avalanche occurrences:

Ski pen up to 25. Very large, perhaps historic, natural cycle results observed, likely running at tail end of storm (3/26) during the warm up. Most slides appeared to be running on a persistnet layer in the upper pack (2-4' down). One D3 observed at 9000' N appeared to have run to ground (10' down). Since the return of cold tempertures to this zone, Improved structure observed in some location not in others. Was able to find non-propagating, planar hand shears at Old/New Interface in isolated areas. Pole pokes revealed lingering persistent slab problem in isolated locations. Found good structure and stability in other locations. 9800, E: ECTN Easy at 20 cm x 2; 8600 NE: ECTN Easy at 20 cm. Lots of rounding observed in pits. No collapsing, minimal cracking observed during our travel. Rain line @ 8200'.

## Avalanche Observations:

Date	Number	Size	Location	Trigger	Type	Inclination	Aspect	Elevation	Comments:
20190226 ?	Dozens	D2-3	Pioneer Range	N	SS	35-40	Many	8000-9500	Widespread natural persistent cycle, mostly running in the upper pack, suspect to be running on NSF at old/new interface.

## Assessment of the Avalanche Problem: [Conceptual Model of Avalanche Hazard](#)

Avalanche Character			Likelihood of Triggering		Terrain Feature	Confidence
Layer of Interest	Problem	Forecast Size	Sensitivity	Spatial Distribution	Elevation/Aspect	
<i>Date; Depth</i>	<i>Persistent; Deep; Cornices; Glide</i>	<i>Destructive Potential</i>	<i>Un-reactive; Stubborn; Reactive; Touchy</i>	<i>Isolated; Specific; Widespread</i>	<i>Location/Run Name/Start zone/Shape/Incline</i>	<i>Low; Mod; High</i>
2/23; 70-100 cm	Persistent Slab	D3	Stubborn	Specific	Mid-elevation, wind-loaded, steep features	High

## Avalanche Hazard Summary:

Summarize the character of the primary concern including the date/depth/distribution of the problem/weak layer. ID strategies for identifying the primary concern. What information is lacking?

Persistent slab in the upper pack is primry concern. Evidence of Basal FC / DH problem becoming hard to find in this zone. Once-touchy wind slab probem appears to be locked in following the cold snap.

## Terrain Use Strategies:

Summarize terrain choices, features committed to and avoided, timing.

Skied up to 38\* utilizing soft terrain shapes where persistent slab not present

## Strategic Mindset:

Stepping Out | Comments: