



PM FORM 2017-18

Date: 20180202 **Time:** 1650 **Guides Present:** Jake Amadon, Pat, Alex, Patrick McCormick

Area/Zone/Drainage: Paradise/ Butterfield

FIELD WEATHER SUMMARY:

Elev. Observed		SKY		Precip		Est Wind @ Ridgetop		Temperature (C)		Snow Depth (cm)		
HI	Low	AM	PM	AM	PM	Speed & Direction		Hi	Low	HN	HST	HS
9,800	6200	BKN	FEW	NO	NO	moderate to strong	W	5	-1	0	0	80-150

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

Overcast in the morning with the storm breaking up until about 1400, then we got chased out of Paradise and ended up finishing in Butterfield with nice weather.

AVALANCHE OBSERVATIONS:

NUM	TRIGGER	TYPE	SIZE	INC	ASP	ELEV	LOCATION	COMMENTS
1	U M	SS	D3	35	E	8700	Snowslide	wind loaded pocket on burried SH triggered by the helicopter from the bottom of the run.
1	U M	SS	D2	32	SE	9000	Castle Creek	likely trigered by a timber sled

SNOWPACK OBSERVATIONS:

Summary of observations including penetration, snowpack tests/location, relevancy/results; layer extent, changes through day:

Widely variable snowpack with boot pen 10-30cm and ski pen 10-60cm in most locations. We did dig a fair amount and found CT's in the moderate to hard range with sudden collapses in our shady terrain. ECT's were also showing propogation but not until near the last tap. Burried SH with wind loaded snow was more reactive in sheltered locations. Burried SH down 45cm standing Test results CTH 24 SC. Remote trigger at a PU propogated a collapse that traveled 800' up the slope and pulled out slide noted above.

Snowpack Structure: (Relevant layers of interest, how to identify them and distribution. Slab thickness and distribution. Average SN depths. Etc.) :

Wind deposited snow on 20 cm of DF on 4F DF / RG going down to 1F RG (40 cm) Our 12/19 interface was FCxr with strong lumpy snow down to the ground where DH was still F density. When we were forced to retreat our remote terrain we skied Butterfeild/ to Bucal ! After a Pit dug on NE exposure going into Bucal with poor structure and propagating test scores we closed this drainage and took a high pick up and flew home for the day. It appears our SH layer is alive there were some other slides OBS but hard to confirm if fresh or old?? I think fresh on SH !! With wind loading!!

ASSESSMENT OF THE AVALANCHE PROBLEM

Avalanche Characteristics			Likelihood of Triggering		Terrain Feature
Layer of Interest: Depth/Date	Type:	Size: (D/R-Scale)	Sensitivity:	Distribution:	Terrain: (Location, Aspect, Start Zones, Shape, Incline, Run Name)
01/31 10-80cm	Wind Slab	3.5	Touchy	Specific	sheltered SE and East terrain between 7500-8500'
12/19 45-55cm	Persistent Slab	2	Stubborn	Widespread	all aspects except due south, all elevations
01/18 45 cm remote	Persistent Slab	2.5	Reactive	Specific	cold SH pockets

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 still lacking?

The snowpack has definatly become more reactive. The loads from our 01/31 wind time period have loaded on some senitive surfaces namely SH. Our persistant problem seems to be unreactive but it is concentering if a large wind slab was to step down and trigger the PW.

TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:

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

Good runlist today. An eye opener for all with our SH layer. Remote terrain survived last wind event nicely. Still not able to trust PWL with poor structure,still keeping or closing terrain in the feild ater test results.