



PM FORM 2017-18

Date: 20181222 **Time:** 1645 **Guides Present:** Pat, Bozo, Alex, Drew

Area/Zone/Drainage: Placer, Paradise

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
10,047	7500	FEW	FEW	NO	NO	10-20	NW	-5	-7	0	0	60-90

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

Clear and cold in the morning with winds gusting to moderate from the NW. Temp got closer to freezing mid day with winds dropping to light. No significant radiation. No drifting snow observed.

AVALANCHE OBSERVATIONS:

NUM	TRIGGER	TYPE	SIZE	INC	ASP	ELEV	LOCATION	COMMENTS
1	A	Sr	SS	D2	32 E	8600	Shaw Mountain	This was an expected remote skier trigger. Wind loaded slope triggered from 50m away.

SNOWPACK OBSERVATIONS:

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

Baker Creek divide and Paradise zone had significantly more wind affect than expected. Observed fewer signs of obvious instability than expected. Observed many old avalanches from the past 4-5 days. The only recent avy observed is the one documented above. Old avalnches were mainly upper elevation in wind affected terrain on most aspects. Up to but not larger than D2. Dug on SE at 9000 w/ HS 85cm. Found 12/11 SH layer 40cm down reactive with CTM SC Q1 x2 above a MFcr and ECTP x2, one of which failed below the crust on FC. Basal FC were small and rounding in this location. Also dug on NE at 8900 w/ HS 90cm. Found basal FC/DH to be most concerning layer here with CTVE SC, CTE SC, ECTP. These basically failed on the ground. Could not definitively find 12/11 SH here and had no other significant results. Shaw Mtn pit near remote skier trigger found reactive SH 30cm down. Likely triggered SH and stepped down to DH near ground. Test scores in this zone on E aspect were CTE x 2 on SH down 30cm. ECTP 17 on SH.

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

Average HS and boot pen 60-90cm. In our remote terrain, upper pack is 30-40cm F DF. Mid pack is 12/11 SH with 20-30cm of 4F FCxr below. Lower pack is 15cm F DH or FCxr depending on aspect and elevation.

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)
85/1122	Persistent Slab	2	Reactive	Specific	mid and upper elevation shady
40/1211	Persistent Slab	1.5	Reactive	Specific	reactive on mid and upper elevation NE and SE. This is SH.

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?

In the Pardise area, the layer of most concern is 12/11 SH. On shady aspects layer of greatest concern is 11/22 DH. Both of these layers were less widespread than we had originally predicted. DH doesn't appear to be a huge concern on solars and 12/11 SH was only found standing and reactive in the pit we dug on upper elevation solar. We still feel like we need more obs to nail down these layers. In Shaw Mountain area E and NE found reactive 12/11 SH which was remotely triggered and stepped down to basal FC.

TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:

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

We avoided terrain over 32*. Only took a couple runs for recon and snow study. We are in assessment mode and just trying to gather obs. Keeping margins wide with unknowns and remote trigger possibilities.