



# PM FORM 2018-19

**Date:** 20190302    **Time:** 16:45    **Guides Present:** Kittrell, Scrivner, Casey, Daly

**Area/Zone/Drainage:** Snowslide & Placer

**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  |
| 9,630          | 7,700 | CLR | FEW | NO     | NO | Light               | W | -4              | -9.5 | 0               | ??? | 290 |

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

Clear skies giving way in the afternoon to few. No greenhousing observed but lots of radiation on sunny aspects. Calm winds increasing to Light in the afternoon with no observed snow transport.

**AVALANCHE OBSERVATIONS:**

| NUM  | TRIGGER | TYPE | SIZE | INC    | ASP | ELEV       | LOCATION                | COMMENTS  |
|------|---------|------|------|--------|-----|------------|-------------------------|---|
| Many | N       | HS   | D3   | 35 & > | all | Mid & High | Baker Creek & Paradise  | Large deep slabs ripped out to the ground, scattered on lots of W. aspects getting to the divide; on the divide few, most notable on Shaw NE side and Big Peak (x3), some were up to 3.5. |
| Many | N       | SS   | D2.5 | 35 & > | all | all        | Baker Divide & Paradise |   |
|      |         |      |      |        |     |            |                         | Observed many large slides on the storm interface, most concentrated on or near the baker divide, some out in Paradise zone.  |

**SNOWPACK OBSERVATIONS:**

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

Snowslide: Found small stubborn wind slabs along exposed ridgelines, large cornices have been building... Few quick pits, in and around snowslide, all around 8,500' variety of aspects, no significant results in upper 120cm, HS 290-300cm. Apart from the very large natural cycle, no obvious signs of instability.

Placer Creek HS 230cm. Widespread wind affect on South and West aspects.

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

Did not observe below 150cm; upper pack is right side up well bonded F-1f.

**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) |
| surface/ 0302                 | Wet Loose  |                   | 1.5 Stubborn             | Specific      | steep rocky solar  |
| 300cm/basal FC                | Deep Slab  |                   | 3.5 Stubborn             | Specific      | rapidly wind loaded and steepish                                   |
| 100/0223                      | Storm Slab |                   | 2.5 Un-Reactive          | Widespread    | steep  |

**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?*

Wet loose was the problem we saw the most activity with today, but deep slab is primary problem. This huge storm triggered some huge avalanches bigger than we have seen in this area before. It's hard to imagine a human affecting the basal FC, but obviously it's still an issue. Storm slabs were mostly unreactive in test pits, and are likely healing pretty quickly if they haven't already.

**TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:**

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

Avalanche debris skied OK, solars didn't have crust. Shady skied around knee deep and very soft. Avoided large steep connected slopes, skied smaller steep features.