PM Operational Hazard and Risk Assessment

Date:	20190121	Time	1500	Guides Present:	PM, NM

Field Weather Summary:

Elevation Observed		Sky		Precipitation		Estimated Wind @ Ridgeline		Temperature (C)		Snow Depth (cm)		
Low	High	AM	PM	AM	PM	Speed (MPH)	Direction	High	Low	HN	HST	HS
7000'	9800'	Partly Sunny	Partly Sunny	none	none	30 G 50	N	NA	NA	0	30	60-125

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

3 Day Trip: 1/19-1/20: Whiteout conditions with Light-Mod SW winds and heavy snowfall. HST about 30cm but difficult to tell due to strong winds. 1/21: Strong N winds (above and below TL) from sunrise through midday today. Heavy gusts (~45 mph). Moderate visibility today, with brief moments of clearing skies.

Snowpack Observations:

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

Prior to 1/21 wind event, HS measured 40-125cm depending on exposure to wind. Pole pokes and hand pits revealed 50 cm slab over crust over facets to ground. Observed widespread rolling collapses (football field in size) and shooting cracks. Also heard 2 large avalanches coming from the Cobb peak area during the whiteout. Didn't get new depths today after winds, but guessing alot of upper elevations were scoured with loading likely on S1/4.

Avalanche Observations:

Date	Number	Size	Location	Trigger	Type	Inclination	Aspect	Elevation	Comments:
1/20/19	2	D2-D3	Cobb Peak Area	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	UNK	Very loud events heard during whiteout. 10-15 sec run time.
1/20/19	1	D2	Hyndman Ck	N	SS	35-40	NW	9500	Ran Close to Ground

Assessment of the Avalanche Problem:

Avalanche Character			Likelihood of Triggering		Terrain Feature	
Layer of Interest	Problem	Forecast Size	Sensitivity	Spatial Distribution	Elevation/Aspect	Confidence
Date; Depth	*Persistent; Deep; Cornices; Glide*	*Destructive Potential*	*Un-reactive; Stubborn; Reactive; Touchy*	*Isolated; Specific; Widespread*	*Location/Run Name/Start zone/Shape/Incline*	*Low; Mod; High*
50cm	Persistent	D2+	Touchy	Widespread		Mod
30-60cm	Wind Slab	D2+	Touchy	Specific	Loaded areas below ridglines	Mod

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?

No formal tests or pits. 1/21: Hand pits revealed hollow wind slab (sastrugi in places) developing over crust over facets. Basal Facets and Depth Hoar primary layer of concern. Storm slab went from F to 1F today in many locations.

Terrain Use Strategies:

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

Avoided avalanche terrain

Strategic Mindset:

Assesment	Comments:	Today's wind was a game-changer in this zone.