



# PM Operational Hazard and Risk Assessment

Date: 20180306 Time: 1643 Guides Present: McCormick

## Field Weather Summary:

Elevation Observed		Sky		Precipitation		Estimated Wind @ Ridgeline		Temperature (C)		Snow Depth (cm)		
AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	Speed (MPH)	Direction	High	Low	HN	HST	HS
7000	8600	Few	Clear	-	-	Light	SW	0	-7	-	45	160

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

Clear and calm. Midday temps near freezing. Solars took heat, even low angle. Opposite loading pattern as observed at top of Galena Pass. Wests seemed to be windward in this zone, unlike higher up on the pass.

## Snowpack Observations:

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

7500' W: 15 cm F PP over 1F windslab over 4F DF over 3-4mm FC. Hand pits failing on isolation @ 50 cm

## Avalanche Observations:

Date	Number	Size	Location	Trigger	Type	Inclination	Aspect	Elevation	Comments:
20180306		1 D2	Lower W Bowl in the Burn	ASr	HS	35	W	7500'	Smaller pocket pulled out of steep rocky entrance to the bowl as we approached from soft entrance, nearly 50' away. 2-4' crown, ran 50'
20180302 ?		1 D2+	Pohl Creek zone	N	SS	38	W	8000'	

## Assessment of the Avalanche Problem:

Layer of Interest	Avalanche Character		Likelihood of Triggering		Terrain Feature	Confidence
	Problem	Forecast Size	Sensitivity	Spatial Distribution	Elevation/Aspect	
Date; Depth	Loose; Wet; Storm; Wind; Persistent; Deep; Cornices; Glide	Destructive Potential	Un-reactive; Stubborn; Reactive; Touchy	Isolated; Specific; Widespread	Location/Run Name/Start zone/Shape/Incline	Low; Mod; High
2/14 ; 45 - 110 cm	(Deep) Persistent Slab	D3	Touchy	Widespread	Touchy where buried under recent wind slab	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?

Too big to tangle with, the 2/14 FC layer has been talking this week and deserves a wide berth. Showing good propagation, potential to remote trigger and the ability to slide on slopes as low as 35° we will not out think this one any time soon.

## Terrain Use Strategies:

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

Avoiding slopes and runouts of slopes above 35°

## Strategic Mindset:

Assessment **Comments:** Keeping it casual, while learning more about spatial variability of this problem