PM Operational Hazard and Risk Assessment

Date:	20200214
Time:	Completed 20200215
Guides Present:	Drew

Drainage/Zone:

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**
9700	7600	SCT	SCT	S-1	NO	Mod to strong	NW	N/O	N/O	Trace	Trace	100-130

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

Windy day! Mostly cold due to wind chill. Clouds were in and out with some flurries through the day. Snow was getting blown around but not a ton available for transport.

SNOWPACK OBSERVATIONS (snowpack tests/location, relevancy/results; layer extent, penetration, etc.):

Lots of old wind slabs, crusts, and cornices out there. No recent or sensitive wind slabs observed. With a little more snow available for transport I would expect to see some more widespread wind slabs. All aspect with any solar have 1-5cm MFcr. I did see a few old crowns on very steep rocky terrain near the Gnarnia chutes. These were on north aspects and likely ran a week ago or so. No obs on basal PWLs.

AVALANCHE OBSERVATIONS

NUM	SIZE	LOC	TRIGGER		TYPE	INC	ASP	ELEV	COMMENTS

ASSESSMENT OF THE AVALANCHE PROBLEM

Layer of Interest	Character	Forecast Size	Sensitivity	Spatial Distribution	Elevation/Aspect
Depth/ Date	*Loose Dry; Wet Slab; Storm; Wind; Persistent slab; Deep; Cornices; Glide Slab*	*Destruct. Potential, % Of Path*	*"Un-reactive", "Stubborn", "Reactive", "Touchy"*	*Isolated; Specific; Widespread*	*Location/Run Name, Start zone/shape/Incline*
Up to 100cm/in the last week	Wind Slabs	D2	stubborn	specific	Upper elevations, steep, rocky

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?

My primary concern was wind slabs, but most old wind slabs seem to have bonded fairly well. I wouldn't be surprised to find them reactive in the right terrain around cliffs and rocks where they're sitting on FC. Persistent slab was my secondary concern only because we avoided terrain where you would be most likely to trigger it. That being probably big connected steep rocky and loaded.

TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:

Ski quality, summarize terrain choices, features committed to and avoided, timing.

Skied up to 40* in confined and protected terrain. Avoided obvious trigger points and kept below 35* in the alpine terrain we traveled in. Lots of challenging skiing conditions out there but we did find good powder in protected, mid elevation, north aspects.