

Avalanche Report Archives

Reported Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 6:00 AM

Weather Synopsis

A little lull in the action today as the next significant wave of moisture approaches from the west. Things will remain unsettled over the next 24 hours with snowshowers until Sunday when a south west flow delivers the next punch. Watch for heavy snow to begin Sunday morning to mid day and continue Sunday night. Watch for temps to rise a bit as this storm arrives and winds will be moderate and hopefully not too strong! Snow should continue Monday with some clearing by Tuesday. A short wave of moisture from the NW on Wednesday could give us another inch or two at best. Later next week watch for stable weather with high pressure with the jet pattern way to the North.

In the Backcountry

Strom totals from this last wave of snow between 8-12" very light low density snow. Not many observations into the center this morning though Ski patrol got very limited avalanche activity during control work yesterday morning. This light snow is still easily transportable and has formed wind slabs above tree-line in exposed areas. An avalanche fatality occurred yesterday in the Flat Tops north of Rifle. It was a snowmobiler on a 40 degree east aspect below tree-line. For more info check the CAIC website. We still have a complex situation with a lot of variability. Coming out of this last avalanche cycle the question remains what slopes slid when and are they filled back in. With last weeks strong winds and yesterdays new snow evidence of old avalanche activity will be now hidden. We can still be dealing with a couple of different layers of wind slabs as well different burried weak layers. Time will help these different layers settle and become one. For now many slopes could be reactive and waiting for a trigger. Do not assume much while travelling as stability could change quickly on any given slope. Keep your shovel handy and dig below the surface to get an idea of what kind of layering you may be dealing with. With more snow in the forecast for Sunday expect the danger to rise again before getting lower. Things will remain tricky out there for some time.



Weather Forecast

Today:

Cloudy w/ snow showers 1-3" possible, winds west 10-20 mph gusting to 30. high
Temperatures in CB and Gunnison in the Low 20's.

Tonight:

Cloudy w/ snow showers Trace - 2" possible, winds southwest 10-15 mph gusts in the 20's with a Low Temperature in CB in the single digits and Gunnison around -5.

Tomorrow:

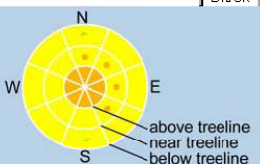
Snow 5-8" possible, winds southwest 10-15 mph gusts in the 20's. High Temperatures in CB around 30 and Gunnison around 20.



Danger Rating and Travel Advisory

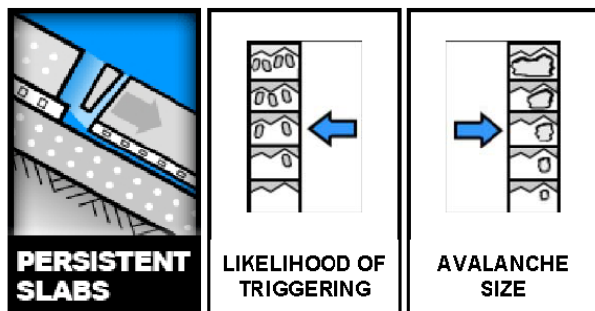


- low
- moderate
- considerable
- high
- extreme



CONSIDERABLE Above Tree-line on all Aspects. Areas of **CONSIDERABLE** near Tree-line on N, NE, E, & SE Aspects. **MODERATE** everywhere else.

Primary Avalanche Concern



Triggered avalanches remain possible to probable today! Watch for newly developed wind slabs above tree-line. Watch for lingering slabs from the last storm. Asses the stability often especially while changing aspect, elevation, and incline. Be aware of burried weak layers and the possibility of avalanches failing deeper than you may suspect. Even smaller slides could still step down into deeper layers. Use your shovel often and inspect the layering of slopes in question. Use terrain wisely and manage your group tightly as it is still a tricky situation in the backcountry.

Billy