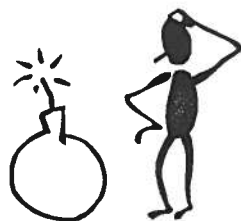


U.S. AVALANCHE HAZARD RATINGS

<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>PROBABILITY</u>	<u>ADVISORY</u>
LOW (green)	Natural avalanches are <u>very unlikely</u> . Human-triggered avalanches are unlikely. Mostly stable snowpack with isolated areas of instability.	Travel is generally safe, however, the possibility of localized areas of concern still exists and normal caution is advised. Carry beacons, probes and shovels.
MODERATE (yellow)	Natural avalanches are <u>unlikely</u> . Human-triggered avalanches are possible, with larger areas of instability possible on steep terrain.	Use caution in steeper terrain on certain aspects, especially on likely wind-loaded aspects or other localized conditions (as defined in advisory statement).
CONSIDERABLE (orange)	Natural avalanches are <u>possible</u> . Human-triggered avalanches are probable, with localized instability probable on moderate to steep terrain.	Be increasingly cautious in steeper terrain (over 30 degrees), especially on wind-loaded or sunny aspects. Avoid slopes undergoing rapid change, confined terrain traps and areas of obvious stress.
HIGH (red)	Natural and human-triggered avalanches are <u>likely</u> , with unstable conditions developing on a variety of slope angles and aspects.	Travel in avalanche terrain is not advised. Travel in steep terrain should be avoided. Safest travel is limited to lower angled, windward ridges without steeper terrain above.
EXTREME (black)	Natural and human-triggered avalanches are <u>certain</u> on most aspects. Large, destructive avalanches with long runouts are possible.	Travel in avalanche terrain should be avoided. All travel should be confined to low-angled terrain well away from avalanche runout zones.



AVALANCHE HAZARD CRITERIA

<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>WEATHER</u>	<u>SNOWPACK</u>
LOW (green)	Stable, clear weather with moderate temperatures and little or no wind.	Stable snowpack with good bonding between layers and increasing density w/ depth.
MODERATE (yellow)	Recent deposition of less than 6", and/ or light to moderate winds (under 20mph) with above or below normal temperatures.	Relatively stable snowpack with noticeable layers of faceted crystals or prominent crusts resulting in moderately easy shears.
MODERATE TO HIGH (orange)	Rapid loading at rate of 1" per hour. Combination of recent deposition of 6-12" and moderate to strong winds (up to 35mph), accompanied by abnormal temperatures.	Weak layers within snowpack underlying relatively denser or stronger layers. Weak bonding between layers resulting in easy shears. Cracks or whoomphing under foot.
HIGH (red)	Rapid loading at rate of 1-2" per hour. Combination of recent deposition of 12-24" and moderate to strong winds. Rapid change in temperature, rain, fog or abnormal temperatures	Obvious slab formation within snowpack. Weak layers, faceted crystals or strong crusts buried deep in snowpack resulting in very easy shears. Signs: recent slides, sunballs or settling.
EXTREME (black)	Rapid loading greater than 2" per hour. Recent deposition greater than 24" accompanied by strong winds (over 30 mph) and/ or rain, fog or warm winds. Temperatures significantly above or below freezing.	Unstable layers below denser layers or slabs. Density decreases with depth, strong temperature gradients, or impermeable layers. Signs of recent slides and rapid settling on all aspects.