

1999

On Jan. 29, Paul Jepson of Payson Utah and his friend were riding on the eastern aspect of a northern peak of Mt Nebo. Around 3:30 pm Paul descended onto a steep (40+ deg.) east facing slope at 10,000'. On his third attempt to climb back out he triggered a 1,200' wide HS. It was 1 to 4 feet deep (avg.=2') and up to 600' long and ran 800' vertical, snapping 6" spruce trees. The avalanche failed in old faceted snow (1' thick layer) formed during a long dry spell in December and the first half of January. The last significant snow was on Jan. 26 (about 6 to 8") preceded by a major storm and avalanche cycle on Jan 19 - 21. The slope was not heavily wind loaded. Similar paths did not have obvious fracture lines, though many other slopes and road banks on the road in had partially filled in crown faces. His friend alerted the Sheriff by cell phone and proceeded to do a visual search (no beacons). The victim was found partially buried in a treed area about 45 minutes later and appeared to have died of trauma.

Backcountry Observations

Date: 1-31 Name: Seth Location: Nebo avalanche fatality

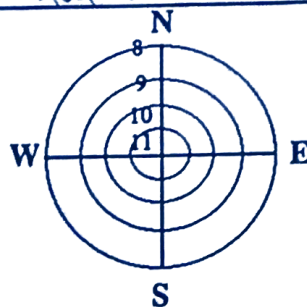
Weather: R Ski Conditions:

North

South

East

West



E facing 40°+

Comments

Victim entered bowl from above the triggered slide on third attempt to climb out. 1-4' deep (average depth 2') 1200' wide 600' vert. ran 800' vert. HS probably triggered in thin spot on 40° slope. Slide pulled into 35° terrain. Partially ~~thin~~ filled in widespread activity observed but not obvious. Victim partially buried in steep trees between upper and lower flats. ~~This path~~ Trees in this path look to have seen many large slides. Path loads in NW winds. Similar slopes did not have natural activity apparent. Upper flats had ^{estimated} 2-4' deposits. Lower flats had deep deposition maybe 10' deep.

0 - 12" faceted snow left in place. probably 4" average

Bottom Line:

Hazard Ratings

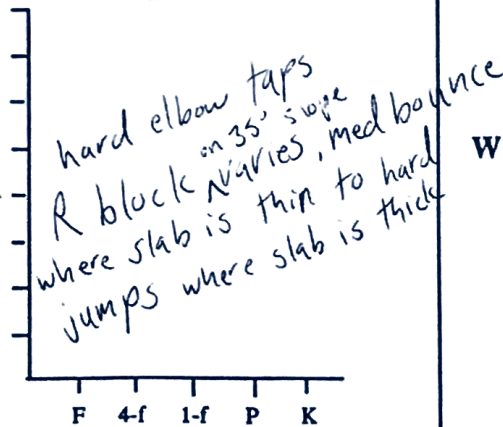
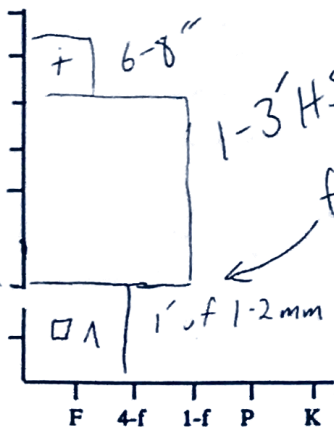
Snowpit Worksheet

Location: Nebo
Aspect: E
Elevation: 10,000
Steepness: 40°

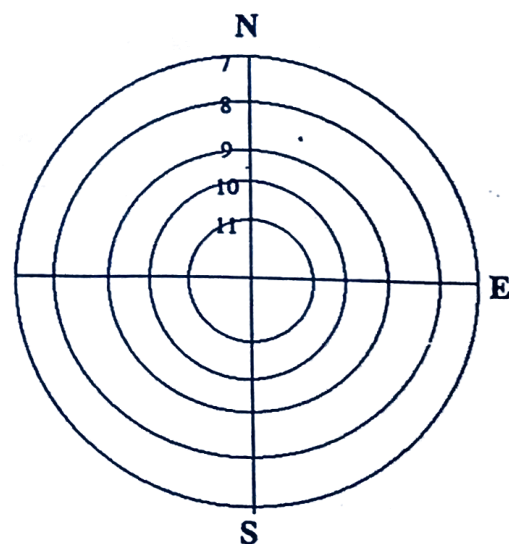
Rutschblock
Compression
Shears

Location
Aspect
Elevation
Steepness

Rutschblock
Compression
Shears



Hazard Ratings Worksheet



ZCZC SLCWRKSNW SDC
TTAA00 KSLC DDHMM

*** BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE AND MOUNTAIN WEATHER ADVISORY ***
FOREST SERVICE UTAH AVALANCHE FORECAST CENTER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999, 7:30 AM

Good morning, this is Tom Kimbrough with the Forest Service Utah Avalanche Forecast Center. Today is Friday, January 29 and it's 7:30 am. This bulletin is brought to you in part by a donation to the Friends of the Utah Avalanche Forecast Center from The Salt Lake Roasting Company, providing the coffee equivalent to Utah Deep Powder, located at 320 E. 400 S., open 'til midnight Monday through Saturday.

Current Conditions:

As valley haze thickens today, the mountains will be especially beautiful. Skies are clear, winds are light from northwest and temperatures have warmed a tad, with dawn temperatures in the low teens. The snow is supportable for skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers; trail breaking is easy and turning conditions are fast and excellent on low angle slopes.

Avalanche Conditions:

Avalanche activity has calmed down with no deep releases reported yesterday. Some point releases on the southeast facing side of Raymond Peak triggered the upper weakness in the snow pack, releasing slabs about a foot or 18 inches deep but that is the only avalanche activity I have heard about. One party felt a collapse of the snow pack while in some low angle northwest facing trees. People were starting to venture onto bigger slopes yesterday but were still keeping their slope angles under 35 degrees.

→ The weakness that is about a foot below the surface is some faceted snow under a thin crust. This is the layer that a person is most likely to trigger but slides breaking in the upper layers could step down to the deeper weakness. The deeply buried faceted snow, which was still producing huge hard slab avalanches a few days ago is harder to trigger now but if it does cut loose, you will be in world of hurt. That deep weakness could still have some nasty surprises waiting for us.

Safe travel techniques are essential. Expose only one person at a time on a slope and get out of the way at the bottom. Evaluate what the consequences of a slide might be; is there a cliff or a narrow gully at the bottom? Watch the slope angles. Mid slope breakovers could be touchy.

Remember that while the avalanche danger is becoming less widespread, large and potentially deadly slides are certainly possible.

Any deep releases could break wide and pull into near-by low angle areas, maybe catching your partner.

The sun is getting higher in the sky so there will probably be some wet point release slides today on steep sunny slopes.

The most recent large slides have been on the Park City side of the range. The danger may be higher in that area.

→ Some places in the southern Wasatch got a couple of feet of snow from the Tuesday storm. The avalanche danger will be greater in these areas. Less even and generally smaller total accumulations over the last 10 days have produced tricky avalanche conditions in the southern Wasatch. Some of these places had less avalanche activity during the big storm and thus more slopes may be hanging there waiting for a person to trigger them.

→ Ice climbers, snowmobilers, and skiers heading to the Provo mountains should be especially cautious as the avalanche danger is higher in this area.

→ Bottom Line:

PROVO: CONSIDERABLE danger of human triggered avalanches on slopes of 35 degrees and steeper. The danger is MODERATE on slopes between 30 and 35 degrees.

SLC, OGDEN, PARK CITY: The danger of large and very dangerous avalanches is localized or MODERATE on slopes ~~around~~ 35 degrees steepness and CONSIDERABLE on ~~steeper~~ slopes.

between 30-35
Mountain weather:

High pressure will keep storms north of Utah for the next several days. Skies will be mostly sunny today. Winds will be light and northerly today with 8,000 foot highs in the thirties. 10,000 foot highs will be in the twenties. Temperatures will warm a little on Saturday. The next storm should arrive on Sunday afternoon.

Clear skies and a moon approaching full could make this a fine time for night skiing and boarding.

To report snow conditions and avalanche activity call our office at 524-5304 or 1-800-662-4140.

The information in this bulletin is from the U.S. Forest Service which is solely responsible for its content. The bulletin describes general avalanche conditions; local variations always occur.

Evelyn Lees will update this bulletin by 7:30 on Saturday morning.

Thanks for calling.

Kimbrough

NNNN

ZCZC SLCWRKMTN SDC
TTAA00 KSLC DDHMM

*****MOUNTAIN WEATHER FORECAST*****
UTAH AVALANCHE FORECAST CENTER / NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Thursday, January 28 1999 0600 MST

A flat ridge will keep precipitation north of Utah for the next several days. A system pushing into the Pacific northwest may bring us a few clouds at times but that is about it until the weekend. Temperatures will warm through Saturday.

Longer range;

The ridge will move east of the state on Saturday. Increasing clouds and southwesterly winds Saturday, with the cold front arriving on Sunday.

Free air (10,000')	Thurs	Thurs nite	Fri	Fri nite
Wind Speed & Direction	NNE 15	Var 15	Var 10	S 10
Temperature (Deg F)	15	20	25	25+

8,000' Temperature	25	15	30+	30
Cloud Cover	Sct	Sct>Clr	Clr>Sct	Brk
Precipitation				
Rain/Snow Line				
Lightning				

Quantitative Precipitation Guesstimate (Inches of snow)	Thurs	Thurs nite	Fri	Fri nite
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Logan Mts.
Powder Mt.
Snowbasin
Canyons Resort
Park City/Deer Valley
Solitude/Brighton
Snowbird/Alta
Snowbasin

Kimbrough/Maier
NNNN

ZCZC SLCWRKMTN SDC
TTAA00 KSLC DDHMM

****MOUNTAIN WEATHER FORECAST****
UTAH AVALANCHE FORECAST CENTER / NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Friday, January 29 1999 0600 MST

Clear sailing for the next 24-36 hours the ridge over the west sharpens in response to the next trough in the Pacific: Sunny skies and light winds. On Saturday afternoon winds will start to increase from the southwest. Precipitation may start about noon on Sunday. This could be a fairly quick hitter, good for snow in the 4-8 or 5-10 inch range.

The models have little agreement regarding next week but the pattern doesn't too dry.

Free air (10,000')	Fri	Fri nite	Sat	Sat nite
Wind Speed & Direction	Var 10	S 10	SW 15	SW 30
Temperature (Deg F)	20	20+	25	25

8,000' Temperature	30+	20	35+	25+
Cloud Cover	Clr	Clr	Clr>Sct	Brk
Precipitation				
Rain/Snow Line				
Lightning				

Quantitative Precipitation Guesstimate (Inches of snow)				
	Fri	Fri nite	Sat	Sat nite

Logan Mts.
Powder Mt.
Snowbasin
Canyons Resort
Park City/Deer Valley
Solitude/Brighton
Snowbird/Alta
Snowbasin

All Areas: Next precipitation
likely on Sunday.

Kimbrough/Conger
NNNN

ZCZC SLCWRKMTN SDC
TTAA00 KSLC DDHMM

****MOUNTAIN WEATHER FORECAST****
UTAH AVALANCHE FORECAST CENTER / NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Friday, January 29, 1999 1130 MST

No change from this morning's forecast.

Clear sailing for the next 24 hours the ridge over the west sharpens in response to the next trough in the Pacific: Sunny skies and light winds. On Saturday afternoon winds will start to increase from the southwest. Precipitation may start about noon on Sunday. This could be a fairly quick hitter, good for snow in the 4-8 or 5-10 inch range.

While there isn't much agreement between models regarding next week, it looks like at a second system is possible about Tuesday or Wednesday.

Free air (10,000')	Fri	Fri nite	Sat	Sat nite
Wind Speed & Direction	Var 10	S 10	SW 15	SW 30
Temperature (Deg F)	20	20+	25	25

8,000' Temperature	30+	20	35+	25+
Cloud Cover	Clr	Clr	Clr>Sct	Brk
Precipitation				
Rain/Snow Line				
Lightning				

Quantitative Precipitation Guesstimate (Inches of snow)				
	Fri	Fri nite	Sat	Sat nite

Logan Mts.

Powder Mt.

Snowbasin

Canyons Resort

Park City/Deer Valley

Solitude/Brighton

Snowbird/Alta

Snowbasin

All Areas: Next precipitation
likely on Sunday.

Kimbrough/Conger

NNNN

Date 1/29/99forecast TK

35° 20°

Location	Time	Sky	Wx	PT	Temp Max	Temp Min	wind speed	wind dir	Wind Gust	12 hr snow	12 hr H2O	24 hr snow	Storm Snow	Storm H2O	Total Snow	Comments
Beaver Mtn	0630	clv		6	27	-2	20/m								82	
Logan Peak 9,570	0400			13	13	4	15	NE	20+							
Snowbasin 6,400																
Middle Bowl 7,700	0400			17	27	15	0-5	S	5-10							
Mt. Ogden 9,572																
Park West 7,000																
Park West 8,400																
Park City Eagle 8,000																
Jupiter Pk 9,998	0400			11	17	11	15	NW	15+							
Deer Valley																
Silver Lake 8,600																
Spruces 7,400																
BCC																
Alta DOT 8,700																
Alta Lifts 8,600																
Col 9,400/Germ 10,400	0400			11	24	10	5-10	NW	10							
Snowbird 8,600																
M Gad 9,400/HP 11,000	0400			17	24	16	15-20	NW	25							
Sundance 7,500	0400			16	20	14										
Sundance 8,200	0400			19	27	18	5-10	NE-SW	10+							

	Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	T.N.
700mb wind	10 Var	10 S	15 SW	30 SW
temp	-6	-5	-5	-5
RH	40%	30%	20%	40%
ETA	AVN other	ETA AVN other	ETA AVN other	

Date 1/30

orecstr Lees

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Location	Time	Sky	Wx	PT	Temp Max	Temp Min	wind speed	wind dir	Wind Gust	12 hr snow	12 hr H2O	24 hr snow	Storm Snow	Storm H2O	Total Snow	Comments
Beaver Mtn				9	34	4									83	
Logan Peak 9,570	0700			25	25	20	<10	E/NE	<15							
Snowbasin 6,400																
Middle Bowl 7,700	0700			29	32	29	5	S	<10							
Mt. Ogden 9,572																
Park West 7,000																
Park West 8,400																
Park City Eagle 8,000																
Jupiter Pk 9,998	0730			20	23	17	10	E	15							
Deer Valley																
Silver Lake 8,600																
Spruces 7,400																
BCC	0730			15	31	12	5-15	SW							581	v f
Alta DOT 8,700																
Alta Lifts 8,600																
Col 9,400/Germ 10,400																
Snowbird 8,600																
M Gad 9,400/HP 11,000	0740			15	33	15	10-17	SE	23							
Sundance 7,500				21	27	21										
Sundance 8,200	0740			25	29	22	15	N	16							

Today

Tonight

Tomorrow

T.N.

wind

temp

RH

ETA

AVN

other

ETA

AVN

other

ETA

AVN

other

Beaver
15-18
16

25-27-29