

I didn't get any photos of the slides due to low/flat light.

But here is an old photo, showing the approximate locations of everything I triggered today.

(No, the Crest does NOT look like this right now)



In addition to these, other members of the party triggered a few other small slides.

This area faces NNE, and is between 10,200-11,000 feet.

I had been out in the area three days ago, and didn't notice any activity at all.

On the lower slope my skin track was slightly covered up from blowing snow, but was still visible. In the upper bowl the track was gone, as it was getting very windloaded.

We made it up the lower slope without incident, skinning around all the small trees and rocks that haven't been covered yet.

Starting up the upper bowl we were all fairly well spaced apart.

I was traversing across the slope towards the (lookers) right side of the bowl on a slope that was probably about 20-25 degrees. I skinned towards a small cone that had formed from snow pouring down between two rocks above me, and stomped in my skis in order to rest and switch directions. That stomping action caused the snow to fracture around me and it knocked me over, dragging me on the surface for about 150 feet. I came to a stop in a pile of small debris.

Looking back at the slide we noticed that it had started a short distance uphill from where I was. It began at the base of some rocks with a crown that was about 6 inches deep and maybe 50 feet at its widest part. In addition to that, another smaller slide was triggered in the bowl a short distance to the right of where we were. That one looked to be about the same depth, though it was hard to tell in that flat light.

In the short time we were in the bowl, the windloading was pretty severe. There was a constant shower of snow pouring over the cliffs above us, and at that point it wasn't snowing much. It was all being swept from the top of the crest.

So we turned around.

On the way down we all triggered a few very small slabs in the trees.

Towards the bottom I cut over a small bump into a little gully, and the whole thing slid under my feet. I was instantly up to my waist in small chunks and moving snow, but managed to get on top and push off to the side. It carried me about 50 feet, but the whole thing ran about 3-400 feet.

This one started on the crest of a small bump, with a crown that was maybe 10 inches deep and 50 feet wide. The center of the slide path tore all the way down to the rocks, leaving numerous chunks of debris that were about the size of a coffee table.

Finally we got across the flats and found excellent, stable snow in the trees above Coldwater. So we at least managed to make SOME good turns.

sburak wrote:

1. Was the slab width 50 ft for both avas?
2. Did I get it right when I wrote the path length was 150 ft for #1 and 300-400 ft for #2?
3. I assumed both avas were soft slabs but you mentioned some piano sized debris. Was the debris angular and blocky and hard?

Yes, both were about 50 feet wide, and the first (upper) ran about 150 feet and the second ran 3-400. Those are at least my best guesses. The weather changed pretty drastically when we were in the upper bowl, and the visibility was terrible. The flat light made it pretty difficult to judge depth and distance. The second slide had some chunks of debris that were maybe as big as a coffee table. Looking at the

slide path, I think those chunks were pulled from above/around a section of rocks that was in the middle of the slide path.

sburak wrote:

Path-relative class: Do you have a feel for the size of the ava compared to the actual avalanche path. Did it take up 30% of the path, or 50 or whatever?

Group dynamics

Familiar with terrain?: YES

Mixed gender group?: not known- I saw you guys near Lk Mary- I didn't see any females.

I would say they both took up about 30%, but again, it was hard to judge distance in the flat light.

We were all familiar with the terrain.

There were not any females in the group.

sburak wrote:

Level of training within group: Could you answer this one- I have no idea.

Was there a leader?: I assume it was you but need to get your answer.

Rescue gear? Trained in its use?: not known

Any formal snow evaluation?: not known

Any "hasty" snow evaluation?: not known

Any discussion of conditions?: Not known

I know that three of us have had no formal avalanche training, but I'm not sure about the other two.

We didn't have a group leader. I just happened to be breaking trail at the time the first slide occurred.

We all had rescue gear (shovels/probes/beacons) and we are all trained in their use.

No formal or hasty snow evaluation.

No discussion of avalanche conditions.

Hope that helps.

Dan.