

Storm Snow and Avalanches in Beehive

Date

Mon, 12/30/2024 - 11:15

Activity

Skiing

It was still snowing heavily when we arrived at the Beehive Basin trailhead this morning. We noted about 12-18" of new snow and winds blowing from the NE. It only took 20 minutes of skinning before we triggered a small avalanche in a [terrain trap](#) from a flat bench above. This [slide](#) (R3 D1) broke 150' wide, about a foot deep, and filled the creek bed below.

As we continued up the basin, we pulled off just south of Tyler's and dug a [snowpit](#) in a protected meadow at 8446'. Our [snowpit](#) (HS 130) gave us clear, unstable test results: ECTP 10 and 18. [Propagation](#) occurred at the storm snow interface (10) and on the faceted [persistent weak layer](#) close to the ground (18). Our [snowpit](#) was a great piece of data, but, after triggering an avalanche moments before, we had all the feedback we needed to stick to a conservative travel plan. We chose to stay in the basin and give a wide berth to slopes steeper than 30°.

Once this period of active [loading](#) ends, the storm snow instability will settle out relatively soon. But we are not forgetting about the persistent weak layers that are still lurking at the base of our snowpack.

Region

Northern Madison

Location (from list)

Beehive Basin

Observer Name

H. Darby