

Whumph on The Sphinx

Sphinx Mountain
Northern Madison
10/5/2019
Code
AF-O
Elevation
9000
Aspect
N
Latitude
45.15820
Longitude
-111.47700
Notes

From e-mail on Saturday 10/5, climbers on the Sphinx found these conditions: "We found a lot of snow on the Sphinx today following heavy precip since Sam's report two days ago [see photo]. 3-5 cm in the parking lot, 20 cm at the Sphinx-Helmet col. Moderate SW winds had created drifts almost a meter deep in places on the traverse to the ice routes on the north face. I backed off after a whumph on a particularly exposed section of the traverse. We tried different ledge systems above and below the normal approach route but found similar snow conditions throughout."

Photo: From 10/3 prior to 8-10" new snow, "No snow hazard of much concern on the approach. However, a quick hasty pit in an isolated wind pocket revealed a CT1 on this layer. ice axe is to the ground."

Number of slides
0
Number caught
0
Number buried
0
Trigger
Foot penetration
Bed Surface
O - Old snow
Problem Type
Wind-Drifted Snow
Images

[Hasty Pit at The Sphinx](#)

Slab Thickness units
centimeters
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Red Flag
Advisory Year
[19-20](#)