

Watch out for the Wind Drift

Date

Wed, 02/08/2023 - 14:25

Activity

Skiing

There was 9" of new snow at higher elevations compared to 4" at the parking lot, and what was accurately reported at Shower Falls SNOTEL. We saw strong winds blowing huge plumes of snow off Maid of the Mist proper. Spindrift and wind-loading into gullies, near ridgelines and other slopes exposed to the wind was our primary concern. We dug two snowpits, one in the Basin low on a north facing slope and another on the south-facing shoulder. We got ECTNs in both. We found the 2-3" thick layer of facets and [surface hoar](#) on the south-facing pit buried 3' deep. They propagated failure with a few extra hits in our ECT. They weren't sensitive where we dug today, but I would not forget about them.

We avoided wind-loaded slopes entirely and would recommend digging down three to four feet to test the upper level of the snowpack before considering any steep slopes.

Region

Northern Gallatin

Location (from list)

Maid of the Mist

Observer Name

Dave Zinn