

Natural and human triggered wind slab avalanches in Hyalite

Hyalite - main fork

Northern Gallatin

12/1/2019

Code

SS

Latitude

45.44720

Longitude

-110.96200

Notes

Observations from Hyalite today:

1. When approaching the base of Mt. Blackmore this morning at roughly 8:45am we observed strong swirling winds at higher elevations (summit of Blackmore and the Elephant/Blackmore Saddle). The winds we observed were primarily [loading](#) snow onto E and SE facing aspects. Furthermore, we witnessed four naturally triggered avalanches over a twenty minute span. All slides appeared to be D1/D2 on E and SE aspects and, seemingly, restricted to the newly loaded snow.

2. My partner and I climbed Zach Attack today. We intentionally triggered numerous size 1 wind slabs in the gully approaching the climb, which has slopes up to 35 degrees. These slabs were between 5 and 15 cm thick, up to 5m wide, 4F in hardness, touchy, and failed on lower density new snow. Although none of them ran more than 20m in this terrain, it would be a different story on steeper slopes, and if you were in an exposed position they had enough mass to push you around. Strong down and cross-slope winds formed these slabs at and below treeline, while the more alpine terrain of the climb itself was scoured.

3. Skied up in the main drainage of Hyalite today. Triggered some small wind slabs and propagating cracks. We backed off our main objective (a north facing [couloir](#)) because of these red flags and multiple crown lines on the same [aspect](#) and elevation.

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Problem Type

Wind-Drifted Snow

Images

[Skier triggered wind slab in Hyalite](#)

[Wind slab triggered from 100' away, Hyalite](#)

[Strong winds loading snow on Blackmore](#)

[Small natural slides in Hyalite](#)

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Multiple Avalanches

Advisory Year

19-20