

Recent avalanches, concerning surface hoar layer

Date

Mon, 01/16/2023 - 15:00

Activity

Skiing

Skied on Henderson mountain the afternoon of 1/16. Wind was calm, snowfall was light and steady through the day with 3-4" of new snow.

Dug a pit on the east side of Henderson at the ridgeline above Henderson Bench. ENE, 10,075' elev. ECTP19 x3 on a layer of [surface hoar](#) buried 60cm (2 feet) deep. HS 260cm. There was an avalanche a few hundred feet north on an east-northeast facing slope below the ridge. It appeared to be snowbike triggered and 1-2+ days old. 150' wide and 250' vertical. HS-AMu-R2-D2-O. It appeared to have broke about 2' deep on that layer of [surface hoar](#). There was also a more recent natural avalanche (less than a day old) on Miller Ridge, slightly smaller. SS-N-R1-D1.5-O and probably broke on the [surface hoar](#) layer.

The location of these avalanches and poor [stability test](#) scores is concerning as they are in exposed areas, implying the [surface hoar](#) will remain an issue on large, steep open slopes that will likely be heavily wind-loaded at some point.

Additional photo of a [cornice](#) triggered avalanche on Miller Ridge that broke to the ground, appears to be many days or weeks old.

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

Henderson Mountain

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal