

Remote Triggered Avalanche

Date

Mon, 02/19/2024 - 15:00

Activity

Skiing

Snowmobiling

Accessed low angle settled powder runs via mellow ridge terrain adjacent to a known avalanche path which is steep, rocky and windloaded. We descended on lower angle terrain following uptrack. On second lap observed the crown and debris while climbing uptrack and suspected we remote triggered; it was not there on first lap. Slope angle 35-38 degrees estimated. Estimate crown depth 60-120 cms. Estimated debris depth 2-3 meters due to terrain trap of an abrupt transition to flat terrain at bottom of path. We did not approach the crown or debris due to hangfire. Starting Zone NE facing at 9100' on wind loaded convexity with unsupported terrain below and rocky bed surface and exposed rocks/cliffs. I would classify it as HS-ASur-R4-D2.5-O

Large collapses with cracks connecting weak spots in the snowpack for 50 feet around us while breaking trail. Slab has gotten quite a bit thicker and more cohesive with 3 inches SWE in past 14 days combined with relatively warm temps promoting settling, strong solar input on the southerlies, and some wind. Average snow depth 100 cms consisting of a F-1Fslab on top of 20-30 cms of large facets. A crust in between on solar aspects. There is a density break/layer of NSF in the slab you can see in some of the photos where it appeared to shear between those layers. A very scary snowpack even for the Pioneers which regularly harbor PWLs throughout the season.

Region

Dillon Area

Location (from list)

East Pioneer Mountains

Observer Name

Alex Dunn