

**Avalanche Watch** Issued: Sunday, February 18, 2018 at 7:00 AM  
Expires: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 12:00 PM

An incoming winter storm will increase avalanche hazard starting Monday. With the higher end of the forecast snowfall, the avalanche danger could rise to HIGH (Level 4) by Monday night. Watch for rapidly changing conditions during the day on Monday as the storm arrives.

**Sun, Feb 18, 2018 at 6:59 AM**  
**Issued by: CBAC**

	<b>Today</b>	<b>Tomorrow</b>
<i>Above Treeline</i>	Considerable	Considerable
<i>Near Treeline</i>	Considerable	Considerable
<i>Below Treeline</i>	Moderate	Considerable

### ***Avalanche Problem***

#### **Persistent Slab**

#### **Summary**

Very large and destructive avalanches continued to be observed yesterday. With some of those avalanches releasing naturally during a period of increased winds and loading Friday night, such as [this unsurvivable avalanche on Gothic Mountain](#). The overall sensitivity of triggering an avalanche has decreased slightly for today, but the deadly consequence is just as real.

Large Persistent Slab avalanches will be the most sensitive to triggering on northerly to easterly facing slopes in the near treeline elevation band. Especially on slopes that have avalanched previously this season and refilled. Above treeline, this avalanche problem will be less sensitive to human triggering but the expected size will be very large and deadly. Such as [these natural avalanches](#) breaking up to 12ft deep! If your skiing or roosting in the alpine today, your regrouping areas should take into account these potential very large avalanches. Below treeline has moderate avalanche danger today due to a slightly smaller expected avalanche size and fewer reported avalanches and signs of instability.

At all elevations, keep your urge for fresh powder in check, and don't let the lack of obvious signs of instability lure you into steep terrain. Our snowpack is just barely catching its breath after a prolonged winter storm last week. These are dangerous times in the backcountry and slope angles need to be kept in check to avoid the chance of triggering a deadly avalanche.