

Skier triggered avalanches in the new snow in Middle Basin

Middle Basin

Northern Madison

3/8/2020

Code

SS-ASc-R1-D1.5-I

Elevation

9300

Aspect

W

Latitude

45.33840

Longitude

-111.37700

Notes

My partner and I toured over from Beehive into Middle Basin today (saw your car in the parking lot) and finding relatively dry snow in the shade headed for a west facing chute on the ridge that divides Middle and Bear Basins. The chutes walls kept it mostly shaded all morning and it was mostly cloudy as we started skinning up its apron. We had no cracking or signs of cohesion as we approached and a relatively easy boot pack up the chute. A couple of hand pits on the way up showed little cohesion within the top layer and a fairly dry snowpack underneath. We made plans for sluff management with protected spots to let it pass on both sides of the chute. While stomping out a platform we were able to kick off boot sized chunks of snow with no reaction My partner dropped first and his first turn kicked off a storm [slab](#) a couple of inches thick from his skis a few feet to his right against the wall of the chute. After a jump turn into a [ski cut](#) to one of those protected spots, he triggered a larger storm [slab](#) about 4" thick that propagated from the edge of our boot pack on one wall of the chute to the other wall about 20/30' across and then ran the rest of the chute onto the apron about 300' below us. No one was caught or injured. We skied out of the chute on the crust bed su [bed surface](#) pent the rest of the day enjoying some low angle trees. The chute was around 40° at 9,000'-9,500' and west facing. We also noted a point release on an east aspect at a [aspect](#) ,300' off the ridge separating Beehive and Middle Basin. It looked like a block of snow fell from a south facing cliff onto the slope below.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

c-A controlled or intentional release by the indicated trigger

R size

1

D size

1.5

Bed Surface

I - Interface between new and old snow

Problem Type

New Snow

Slab Thickness

4.0 inches

Vertical Fall

300ft

Slab Width

25.00ft

Images

[Site of Small, Human Triggered Avalanche - Bear/ Middle Basin Ridge](#)

[Small, Human Triggered Avalanche Beehive Basin](#)

Attached Videos

[It's Still Winter in Beehive Basin - 8 March](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[19-20](#)