

Very poor stability, and avalanches

Date

Sun, 01/21/2024 - 15:25

Activity

Snowmobiling

There was low visibility at Lionhead with a thick fog engulfing the ridge. We rode to Ski Hill and dug a pit on the south end. As we approached our pit site we noticed a recent avalanche on the steep center section of ski hill. It looked natural, possibly rider triggered in the last 24 hours, 14-18" deep, 225' wide, 200' vertical. SS-R2-D2-O.

Our [snowpit](#) had a layer of well-preserved 10-20mm [surface hoar](#) below 14" of snow (measured 2.45" SWE in 14" [slab](#)). Below that was soft facets, another layer of [surface hoar](#), and more soft facets. We got ECTP4, and PST22/100end on the upper layer of [surface hoar](#). The nearby avalanche probably failed on that [surface hoar](#) layer.

We went to look a little closer at the avalanche from a low angle (25 degree) slope above. While approaching we had a large [collapse](#) and shooting crack.

A group of riders in the parking lot saw a similar depth recent avalanche a little further up the ridge.

The snowpack is very unstable and avalanches large enough to bury or injure a person are likely to be triggered on any steep slope.

It was snowing lightly all day with calm wind and overcast to foggy skies.

Region

Lionhead Range

Location (from list)

Lionhead Ridge

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal