



[GNFAC Avalanche Advisory for Sat Nov 11, 2017](#)

Good morning. This is Alex Marienthal with early season weather and avalanche information from the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center on Saturday, November 11th at 6:45 a.m. This information is sponsored by [The Friends of the Avalanche Center](#) and [Yellowstone Arctic Yamaha and Yamaha Motor Corp.](#) We will update this bulletin when conditions change.

Mountain Weather

At 4 a.m. the Bridge Range has 6-8" of new snow, mountains near Big Sky have 3", Hyalite has 1", West Yellowstone 5", and Cooke City 6". Temperatures are in the 20s F and wind is out of the southwest at 10-20 mph. Snowfall will taper off this morning with 1-2" more possible. Temperatures will reach the low 30s F this afternoon under mostly sunny skies with westerly wind at 10-15 mph. The rest of the weekend will be dry with wind increasing to 20-30 mph Sunday afternoon. Monday evening into Tuesday looks like the next chance for snow.

- [Weather and Avalanche Log](#)

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



All Regions

At this point, a fresh layer of snow this early in the season is no surprise. The mountains have 3-4 feet of snow near Bozeman and Cooke City, and 2-3 feet near Big Sky and West Yellowstone. People have been skiing, ice climbing and snowmobiling, and have observed and triggered avalanches.

New snow last night and wind today create unstable conditions on wind-loaded slopes. Avoid avalanche terrain if you see obvious sign of instability like cracking, collapsing, and recent avalanches. I observed similar conditions at Bridger on Tuesday ([video](#)), and Doug saw drifting in Hyalite yesterday ([video](#)). On Tuesday, I easily triggered a small [wind slab](#) north of Bridger Bowl, intentionally from a safe spot. It was fairly small, but would have been inescapable, and ran through a narrow, steep, rocky chute. Avoid wind-loaded slopes, likely found near ridgelines, and assess steep terrain for consequences of even a small [slide](#).

Last night's snow fell on weak layers and crusts that formed over the last couple days ([photo](#), [photo](#)). Dig down a couple feet to assess the [stability](#) of the new snow before riding in steep terrain. If the new snow easily slides or collapses, avoid similar slopes. [Stability](#) has been generally good on non-wind loaded slopes. However, it is still early and data is limited. Near Cooke City, riders observed avalanches breaking deep in the snowpack ([photo](#)), which shows deeper slides are possible on slopes that hold snow from September and October. If you plan to ski or ride in avalanche terrain, I suggest to dig multiple snowpits in similar terrain to where you plan to ride and assess the [stability](#) of deeper layers ([video](#)).

We will begin issuing daily avalanche advisories and [danger ratings](#) when the mountains get more snow. Our field data is currently limited. Besides our own field days we rely on others to help us form a picture of what's happening across our forecast area. If you get out and have any avalanche or snowpack observations to share, drop a line via our [website](#), email (mtavalanche@gmail.com), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram ([#gnfacobs](#)).

- [Submit Snow Observations](#)

Get Avalanche Smart – Episode 2: Don't Be Like Dick

The Friends of the Avalanche Center present the second of 4 short films promoting avalanche education. Dick Aspen and Doug Chabot star in this episode to encourage you to “get the real forecast” [VIDEO](#).

Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

[Events and Education Calendar](#)

BUTTE

17 November, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7:30 p.m., Butte, MT

HELENA

7 November, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7:30 p.m. at Carroll College, Helena

18 November, **Avalanche Awareness and Beacon Practice for Snowmobiles**, 9 a.m. at Montana Boat Center, Helena

7 December, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7:30 p.m. at Basecamp, Helena

BOZEMAN

6 December, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7:30 p.m. at REI Bozeman

7 December, **Avalanche Awareness and Beacon Practice**, 6-8 p.m. at Beall Park, Bozeman

Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 2, 3 or 9, **Introduction to Avalanches w/ Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Jan. 12 and 13, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, [Info and Register](#)

Jan. 17, 18 and 20 or 21, **Introduction to Avalanches w/ Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Jan. 24, 25 and 27, **Advanced Avalanche Workshop w. Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Feb. 9 and 10, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, [Info and Register](#)

COOKE CITY

24 and 25 November, **Current Conditions and Avalanche Rescue**, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday and anytime between 10-2 on Saturday.

Valid Dates

Sun, 11/12/2017 - 06:28

Images

[Surface Hoar in Hyalite](#)



Feathery crystals of surface hoar were seen near Palisades Falls in Hyalite. This is not widespread or a current concern, but there's nothing more beautiful than a crisp picture of surface hoar. Photo: M. Santana

[Mt. Republic, Cooke City](#)



This avalanche was seen today by a skier. The vicinity of the crown is marked. Photo: B. Fredlund.

Avalanche on Crown Butte



This natural avalanche occurred yesterday (Wed, Nov 8) on the north aspect of Crown Butte outside Cooke City. The crown of the avalanche is marked. Photo: Cooke City Motorsports

Surface Hoar near Bridger Bowl



Surface hoar and near surface facets (weak layers) are forming in the Bridger Range, and probably other ranges, during cold temperatures and clear nights. Photo: GNFAC

Attached Videos

Wind Slabs forming up Hyalite

Video URL

<https://youtu.be/4eBF2YWsDOc>

Get Avalanche Smart - Episode 2: Don't be like Dick

Video URL

<https://youtu.be/oc9YtBTdc2c>

Wind Slabs, Recent Snow, New Weak Layers, Bridger - 7 Nov 2017

Video URL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TJFOP7D1y8&feature=youtu.be>