

Whumph on The Sphinx

Sphinx Mountain

Northern Madison

10/5/2019

Code

AF-O

Elevation

9000

Aspect

N

Latitude

45.15820

Longitude

-111.47700

Notes

From e-mail on Saturday 10/5, climbers on the Sphinx found these conditions: "We found a lot of snow on the Sphinx today following heavy precip since Sam's report two days ago [see photo]. 3-5 cm in the parking lot, 20 cm at the Sphinx-Helmet col. Moderate SW winds had created drifts almost a meter deep in places on the traverse to the ice routes on the north face. I backed off after a whumph on a particularly exposed section of the traverse. We tried different ledge systems above and below the normal approach route but found similar snow conditions throughout."

Photo: From 10/3 prior to 8-10" new snow, "No snow hazard of much concern on the approach. However, a quick hasty pit in an isolated wind pocket revealed a CT1 on this layer. ice axe is to the ground."

Number of slides

0

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Trigger

Foot penetration

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Wind-Drifted Snow

Images

[Hasty Pit at The Sphinx](#)

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Red Flag

Advisory Year

[19-20](#)