

## Small avalanche on Sphinx Mountain

Sphinx Mountain  
Northern Madison  
10/23/2020  
Code  
SS-AFc-R2-D1-O  
Elevation  
9500  
Aspect  
NE  
Latitude  
45.15820  
Longitude  
-111.47700  
Notes

From Doug Chabot:

Today I turned around on the approach to an ice climb on the north face of the Sphinx. Cracking in the windblown snow was a sign of things to come. At the first wind-loaded gully I crawled on my hands and knees over to the slope and whacked it with my ice axe. It avalanched. Although it was only 4" thick, it propagated 75 feet above and scraped the snow over a cliff. We opted to not tempt any more slopes and went home.

Number of slides  
1  
Number caught  
0  
Number buried  
0  
Avalanche Type  
Soft slab avalanche  
Trigger  
Foot penetration  
Trigger Modifier  
c-A controlled or intentional release by the indicated trigger  
R size  
2  
D size  
1  
Bed Surface  
O - Old snow  
Problem Type  
Wind-Drifted Snow  
Slab Thickness  
4.0 inches  
Vertical Fall  
500ft  
Slab Width

20.00ft

Images

[Wind-loading on the Sphinx](#)

[Shooting Cracks on the Sphinx](#)

Attached Videos

[Triggering an avalanche on Sphinx Mountain, 23 Oct](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[20-21](#)