Two weak layers and two avalanches

Date
Mon, 12/26/2022 - 16:45
Activity
Skiing

We dug in the first yellow mule, NE aspect at 9,400'. HS was 128cm and we had two ECTX. We identified the two weak layers we have been talking about in forecasts (see video), but they were not reactive here in our tests. We dug in the second yellow mule, NE aspect 9,300' and HS was 93 cm. Here we had ECTP26 on the layer of facets near the bottom of the snowpack. In both pits and a quick pit in 3rd yellow mule there was a stout ice crust (maybe a rain/mist crust) about 10cm down that is not a problem at the moment, but notable due to being widespread and unusual for our normally dry snowpack (see picture).

We saw two large avalanches in the 2nd Yellow Mule that were probably 2-3 days old, and likely broke on the weak layer near the bottom of the snowpack. Hard slabs on heavily wind-loaded slopes.

Region
Northern Madison
Location (from list)
Buck Ridge
Observer Name
Alex Marienthal