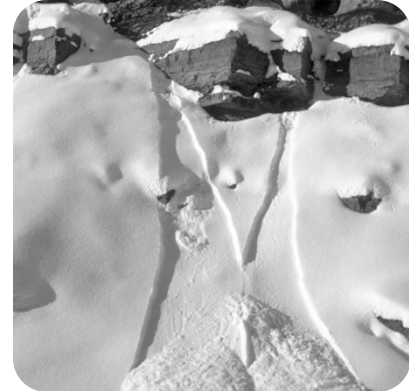


BASIC TERMINOLOGY AND RECIPE FOR AN AVALANCHE

Loose Snow Avalanche:

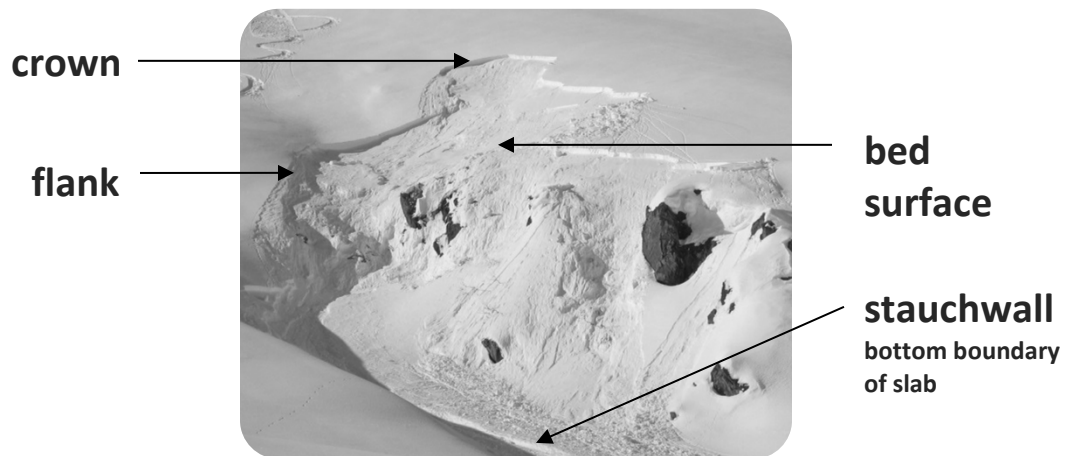
Known as a point release or sluff

- starts with a release of **cohesionless** snow in dry or wet snow
- general shape is tear-shaped or triangular

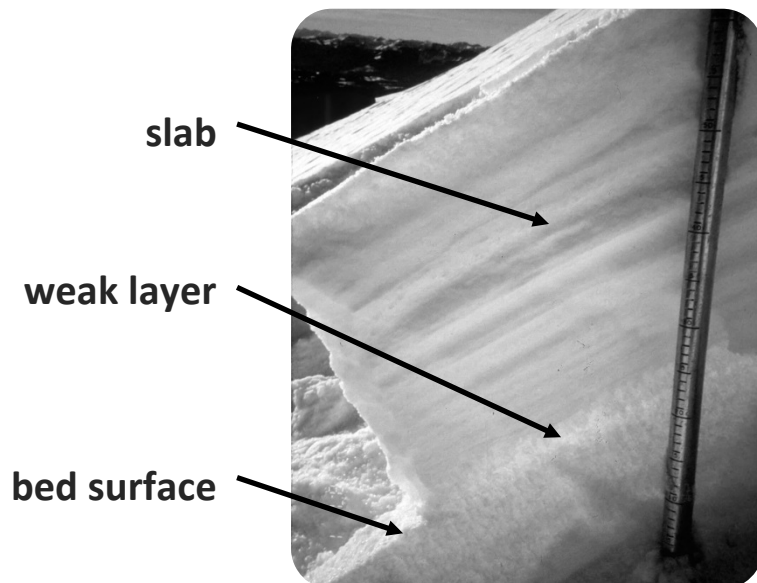


Slab Avalanche:

- starts with a release of a unit of cohesive snow in dry or wet snow



Recipe for a slab avalanche:



PLUS:

A slope that is steep enough to avalanche and a trigger

Types of slab avalanches:



Hard Slab: Debris is angular. Slab is hard – 1F or greater.



Soft Slab: Debris is broken up and not angular. Slab is soft – Less than 1F.

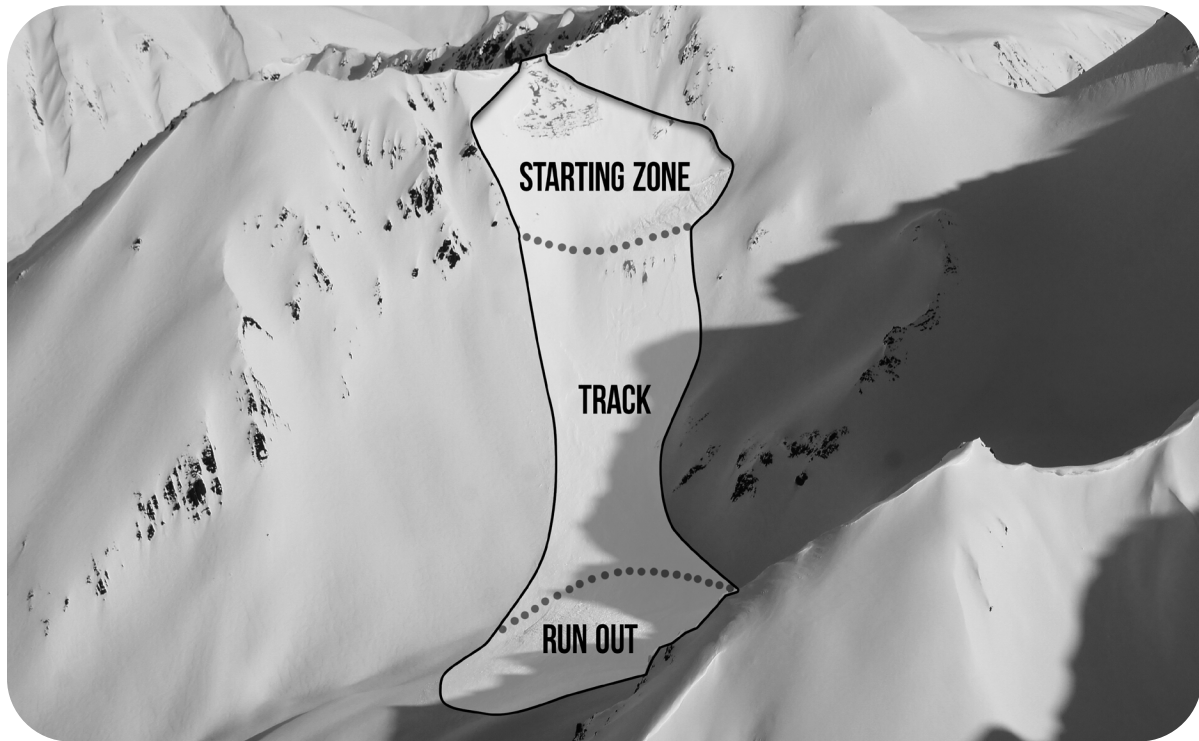


Wet Slab: Debris looks like wet concrete. Bed Surface often gouged.



Glide Avalanche: The entire snowpack moves as a unit

PATH ANATOMY:



LOCATION DETAILS OF AN AVALANCHE:

It is important to note location details of an avalanche. Include the following:

Location

Elevation

Aspect

Slope Angle

Time & Date

PROFESSIONAL LEVEL 1 WORKBOOK



Short Hand Documentation of avalanche activity

Avalanche Type	Triggers	Size	Failure Plane
HS = Hard Slab SS = Soft Slab WS = Wet Slab L = Loose	N = Natural NC = Natural cornice A = Artificial AS = Skier AR = Snowboarder AM = Snowmobiler AE = Explosive AC = Cornice AI = Snowshoer AF = Foot c = controlled/intentional u = unintentional	Destructive force: D1 = run less than 10 m D2 = could bury, injure or kill a person D3 = could bury & destroy a car D4 = could destroy a train car or forest area D5 = largest known avalanches Relative to path: R1 = very small R2 = small R3 = medium R4 = large R5 = maximum	S = New Snow I = New/Old snow interface O = Old Snow G = Ground U = Unknown

Example of Documentation:

WS-N-D3-R3-O/G

- Wet Slab = **WS**
- Naturally triggered = **N**
- Capable of burying a car = **D3**
(or several of them in this case)
- Medium size relative to the path's potential = **R3**
- Ran on old snow (see crown on right side) = **O**
and the ground (majority of the bed surface) = **G**

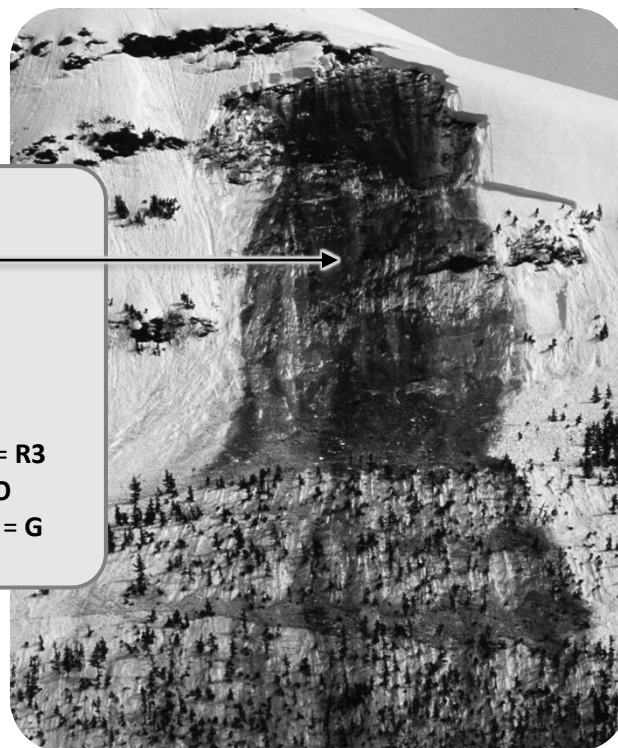


Photo: Peter Thurston