

Large Skier Triggered Avalanche Hyalite Pk

Hyalite Peak

Northern Gallatin

3/4/2023

Code

HS-ASu-R4-D3-O

Elevation

9800

Aspect

NE

Latitude

45.38100

Longitude

-110.96100

Notes

(NE, HS, ASu, D3, R4)

We toured into Hyalite with the intention of skiing the North East Face of Hyalite Peak. Our primary concern was [wind loading](#) on [leeward](#) slopes. Before starting the day 6" of snow was reported in the Northern Gallatin range however we only found up to three inches of new snow. Approaching the saddle we found soft snow (2-3") on a pencil-hard crust. Once reaching the summit we descended carefully onto the NE face observing a shooting crack on a pocketed soft wind-[slab](#) after performing a [ski cut](#). Noting this we descended further staying on the ridgeline. We then found a similar snowpack to the saddle with no cracking after a few more ski cuts and decided to ski one at a time down the duration of the face. Skier 1 skied a few turns down the face when a loud wumph was heard and the whole face started sliding. Skier 1 was caught, carried, and partially buried at the tail of the [slide](#) path. Skier 2 observed skier 1 and skied down to them after the avalanche stopped. Skier 1 was then fully dug out and both skiers left the [avalanche path](#) unharmed. The [slide](#) was thought to be (D3,R4) breaking all the way to the ground and spanning at least 500' wide.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

1

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

4

D size

3

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

54.0 inches

Vertical Fall

700ft

Slab Width

750.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Faceted Crystals

Weak Layer grain size

2.50mm

Weak Layer Hardness

F

Images

[Large Skier Triggered Avalanche NE Face Hyalite Pk 3](#)

[Large Skier Triggered Avalanche NE Face Hyalite Pk 2](#)

[Large Skier Triggered Avalanche NE Face Hyalite Pk](#)

Attached Videos

[Hyalite Peak Avalanche Investigation - 7 March 2023](#)

Snow Observation Source

[Large Skier Triggered Avalanche NE Face Hyalite Pk](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[22-23](#)