

Low Probability, High Consequence

Date

Wed, 03/22/2023 - 15:15

Activity

Skiing

There has been a dramatic shift from last week's Avalanche Warning and major avalanche cycle to today at Hebgen Lake. Triggering a large avalanche is becoming much less likely. We had ECTXs in both our snowpits. In one (on a NE [aspect](#)), the weak layers were unremarkable. In the second (SE [aspect](#)), the snowpack was thinner, and we found a couple of layers of facets. Nothing broke in the test, but recent large avalanches in the vicinity lead me to maintain a healthy skepticism. We remain wary because if you find the wrong spot, [trigger](#) an avalanche, and get caught, the result could easily be unsurvivable.

If you take that chance, ease into avalanche terrain rather than going for large slopes, choose less wind-loaded slopes that are generally safer, and follow safe travel protocols, only exposing one person at a time to avalanche terrain.

On a non-avalanche related note, while I was glassing Lionhead Ridge for avalanches, I saw what I believe were the markings (mud and debris) from a bear coming out of hibernation. The season is changing—time to carry bear spray. I know, if it's not one thing, it's another.

Region

Lionhead Range

Location (from list)

Hebgen Lake

Observer Name

Dave Zinn