

Quick notes on wet snow & "stability"

Date

Sun, 03/17/2024 - 18:25

In my videos I have somewhat implied that slopes are "stable" while they have a solid melt-freeze crust, but that is only in regards to wet snow. This evening I was wondering if a (mostly dry) avalanche could be triggered multiple feet deep on the pwl on a slope with a 1-2" frozen crust on the surface? Seems possible, especially this year. (Maybe the crust would make triggering slightly more difficult, but promote [propagation](#)?) Then Nelson's observation came in and it sounds like he had a large [collapse](#) a couple feet deep on a slope with a frozen crust on the surface...

I just wanted to urge us to be cautious saying or writing, "slopes with a frozen surface are good to go", despite what I may have said in a video. A frozen surface can rule out the wet snow danger, but you still have to assess the potential for avalanches to break on deeper buried weak layers.

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal