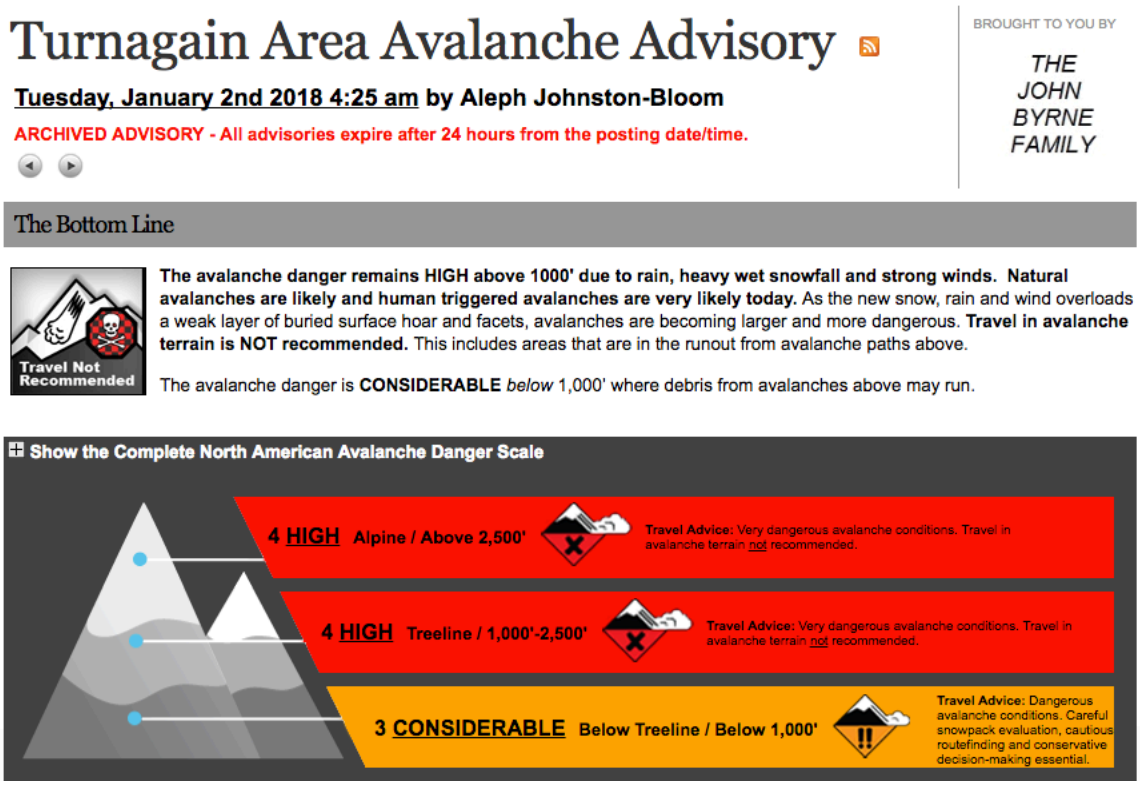
Chugach National Forest Avalanche Center Advisory Updates 2018

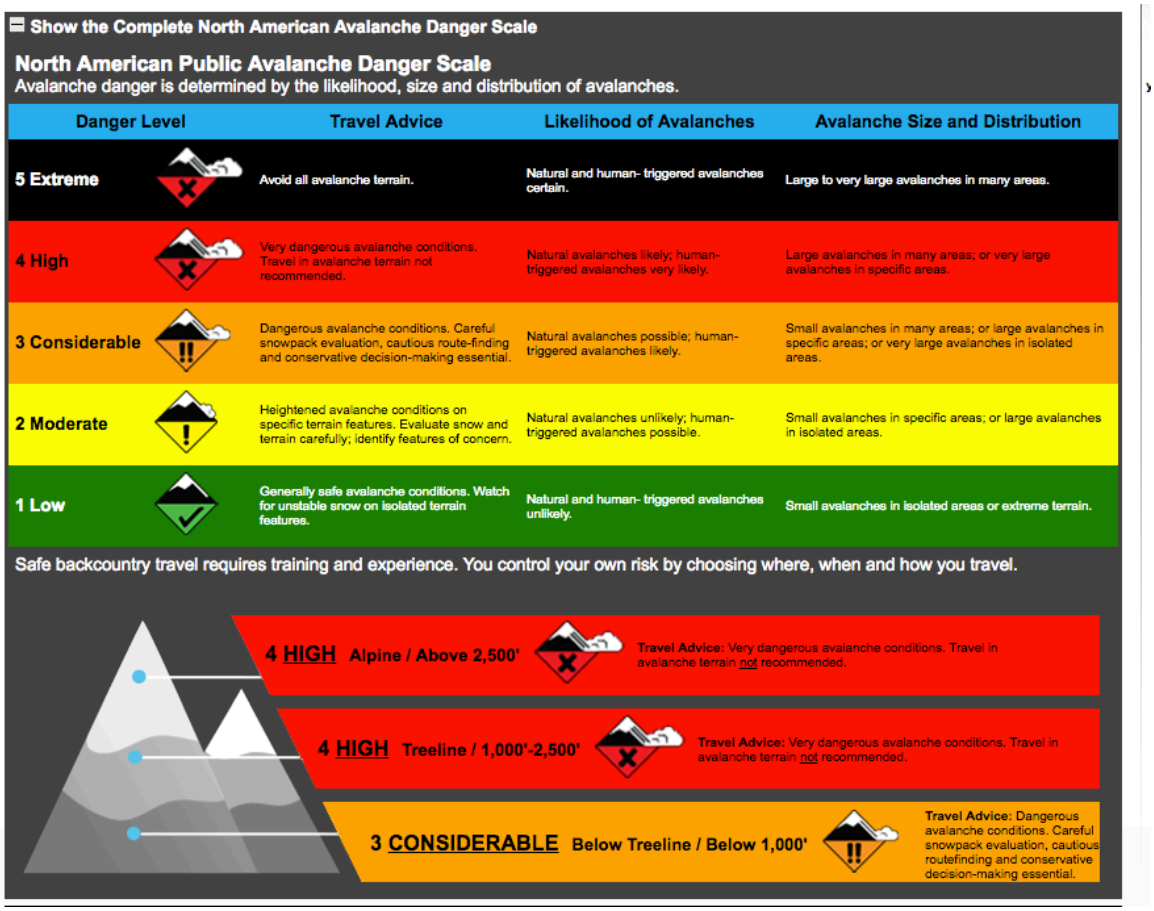
Happy New Year! Monday January 8, 2018 when you open the Turnagain Area Avalanche Advisory it will look different. We are making a few changes. Click here for a quick video tutorial: youtu.be/bmCQIZ_rD4k. These changes are part of a national push to have consistency between public avalanche advisories across the country and to help better define the avalanche hazard each day. Go to avalanche.org to look at other avalanche centers.

When you first open the advisory you will see The Bottom Line at the top of the page. This is the key message that you should remember as you plan your trip to the mountains. Just below will be the avalanche danger by elevation band. It's always good to remember road level at Turnagain Pass is 1000'.



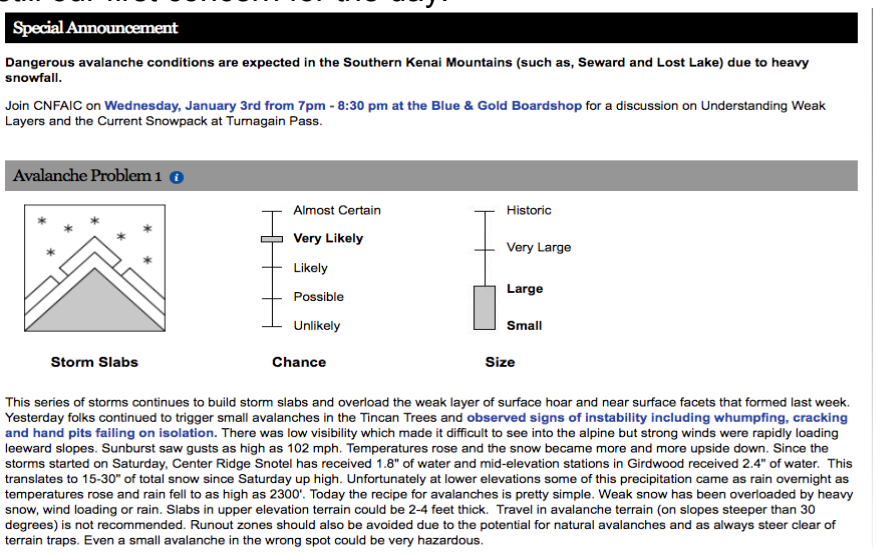
If you want to see the complete North American Danger Scale click on the plus sign in the left corner.

Did you know that 47% of avalanche fatalities occur at CONSIDERABLE and 34% occur at MODERATE? Understanding the danger scale is key!

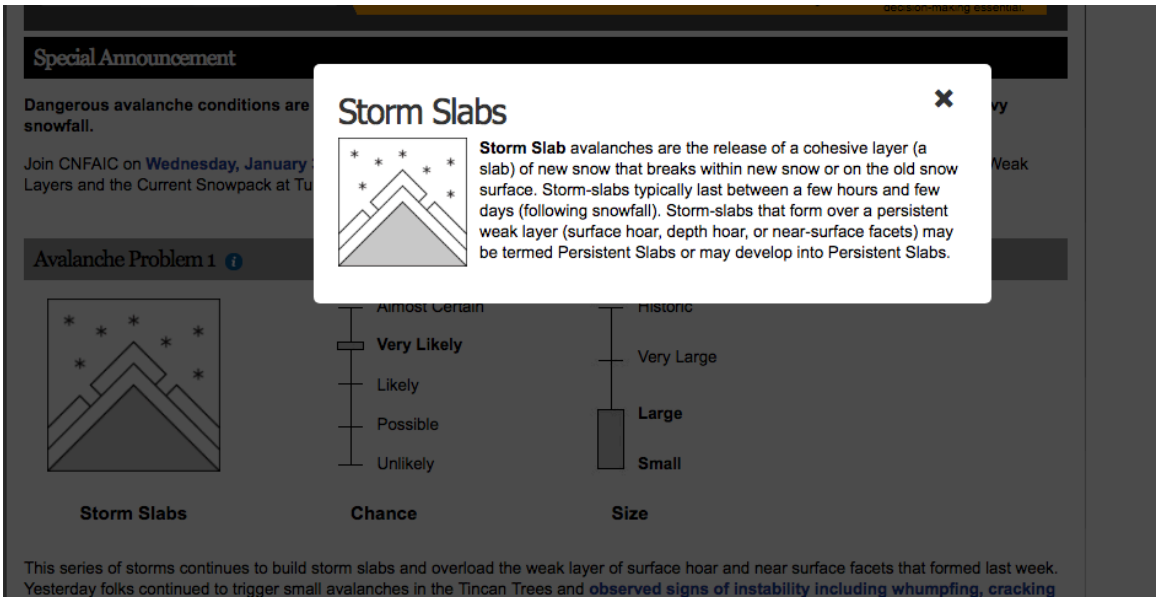


Click here for a video tutorial on the danger scale: youtu.be/r_-KpOu7tbA

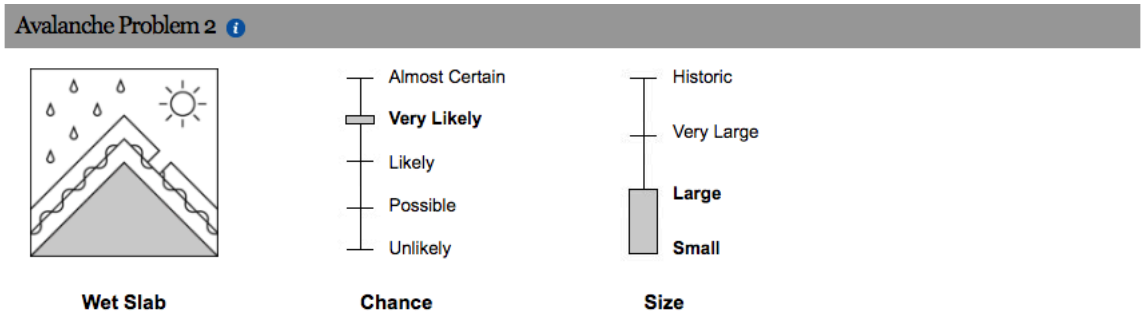
Below the Danger by elevation you will see Special Announcements if we have any and then Avalanche Problem 1. This used to be labeled the “Primary Concern.” Even thought that title has been removed this Avalanche Problem is still our first concern for the day.



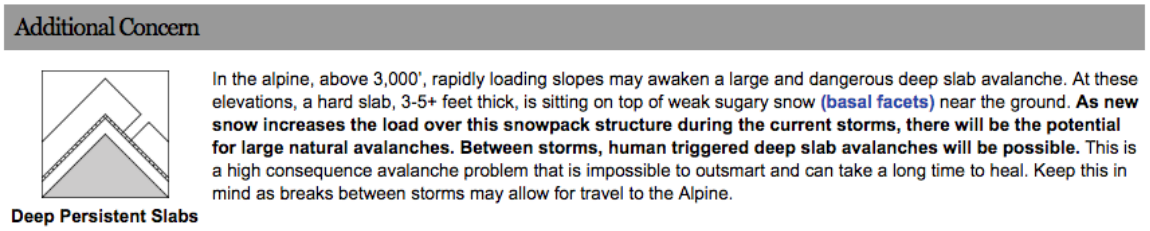
The Avalanche problem icons look totally different. There are still 9 avalanche problems but the graphics are all black and white and you will notice a few changes in the names. These icons were developed by the Colorado Avalanche Information Center with a lot of infographic research, and the principles of effective behavioral imagery taken into account. Click on the small blue (i) next to Avalanche Problem for a video tutorial on the avalanche problems and definitions for all 9 avalanche problems, shown here: https://avalanche.org/avalanche-encyclopedia/avalanche-problem/ . You can also click on the specific avalanche problem icon to pull up the definition. It is really important to understand what kind of avalanche problem you are dealing with.



There are also two new features, the **Chance** slider bar and the **Size** slider bar. These tie into the North American Danger Scale and help illustrate the likelihood of triggering and size of avalanches you can expect with avalanche problem 1 and 2 on a given day. It is important to note that **Large** is big enough to injure or kill a person. Click link below and Scroll to bottom for descriptions: https://avalanche.org/avalanche-encyclopedia/avalanche-problem/



If we have an additional avalanche concern for the day we will have an avalanche problem in the Additional Concern section. There will not be a Chance or Size slider bar but you can click on the Avalanche Problem icon for a definition and we will give a description of where you should be looking for this specific avalanche problem in the terrain.



As you scroll towards the bottom of the page our Mountain Weather, 24 hour Data and Winter Snowmachine Use Open/Closed Status and Riding Conditions Updates sections will all look the same. We will continue to have photos and link to observations and definitions in our forecasts. Please ask questions and let us know what you think. We are always trying to make this product more useful for our users… That means you! Email staff@chugachavalanche.org.

Thanks for all your observations! Please send us what you see out there. Follow the Friends of the CNFAIC on Facebook and @chugachavy on Instagram. Stay safe in 2018!