

# Skyscraper Avalanche Accident 1/16/2016

## January 16, 2016 – Avalanche Accident on Skyscraper Mountain

An **avalanche fatality** was confirmed at this site on Jan 16, 2016:



*Jan 16, 2016 – Avalanche accident site*

Human triggered avalanche- HS-AR-D2.5R2-O

Skyscraper Mountain

SSE aspect (160°), cross-loaded slope and features

Triggered at 4200?

Slope angle at crown = 43°

Estimated size: 6-8? deep consistent across crown X 120? wide X 600? run

Debris pile 12? deep X 185? wide, victim buried 7.5? deep

Victim was traveling by snowshoe, climbed Skyscraper Mountain, triggered avalanche while descending by snowboard. Victim was traveling with one other partner, neither were wearing avalanche beacons. Avalanche likely triggered above rider. Lack of avalanche beacons, and the depth of the burial contributed to a long burial time, approximately 45 minutes.



Jan 16, 2016 avalanche accident site on Skyscraper Mountain, HS-AR-D2.5R2-0



*Average crown height 6-8?, 1F slab over F facets weak layer (large grain size difference) over F+ facets bed surface.*



JED WORKMAN

*Left debris pile is old natural avalanche from Jan 2. Right debris pile is the Jan 16 accident site.*





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*Large debris pile, approximately 12 feet deep*

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*Hard slab chunks, P hardness, up to 3 feet thick. This avalanche had a consistent crown depth of 6', but pulled out a much thicker wind loaded/deposited slab. Classic Persistent Slab triggered at shallow point.*

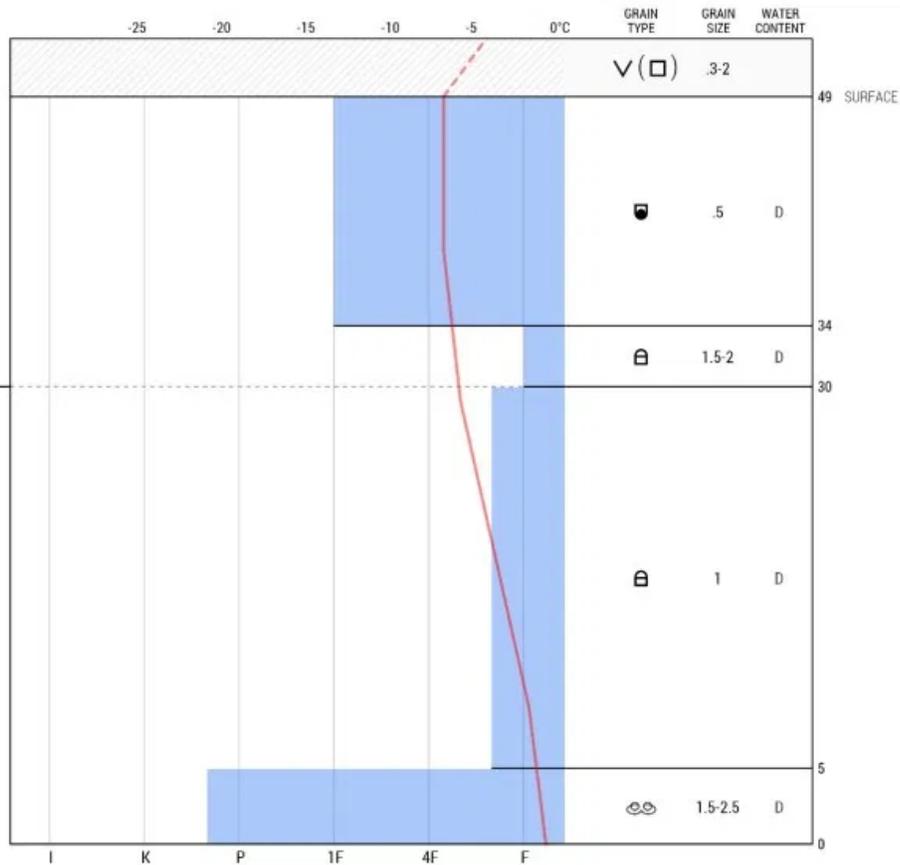
# Avanet SNOW PROFILE

Organization: Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center

Location: Skyscraper Peak, Hatcher Pass Date: 2016-01-17 12:00 pm Snowpit depth: 49 cm

Lat/Lng: 61.77396, -149.30710 Observer: Jed Workman/Allie Barker Snowpack depth: 49 cm

Elevation: 4,150 ft	Wind: Calm	Surface snow= SH 0.5-2.0mm, NSF= 0.3-0.5
Slope: 43°	Blowing snow: None	
Aspect: 160° SSE	Precipitation: No Precipitation	
Air temp.: -4.5°C	Foot Pen. (PF): --	
Sky: ☁ Scattered	Ski Pen. (PS): --	

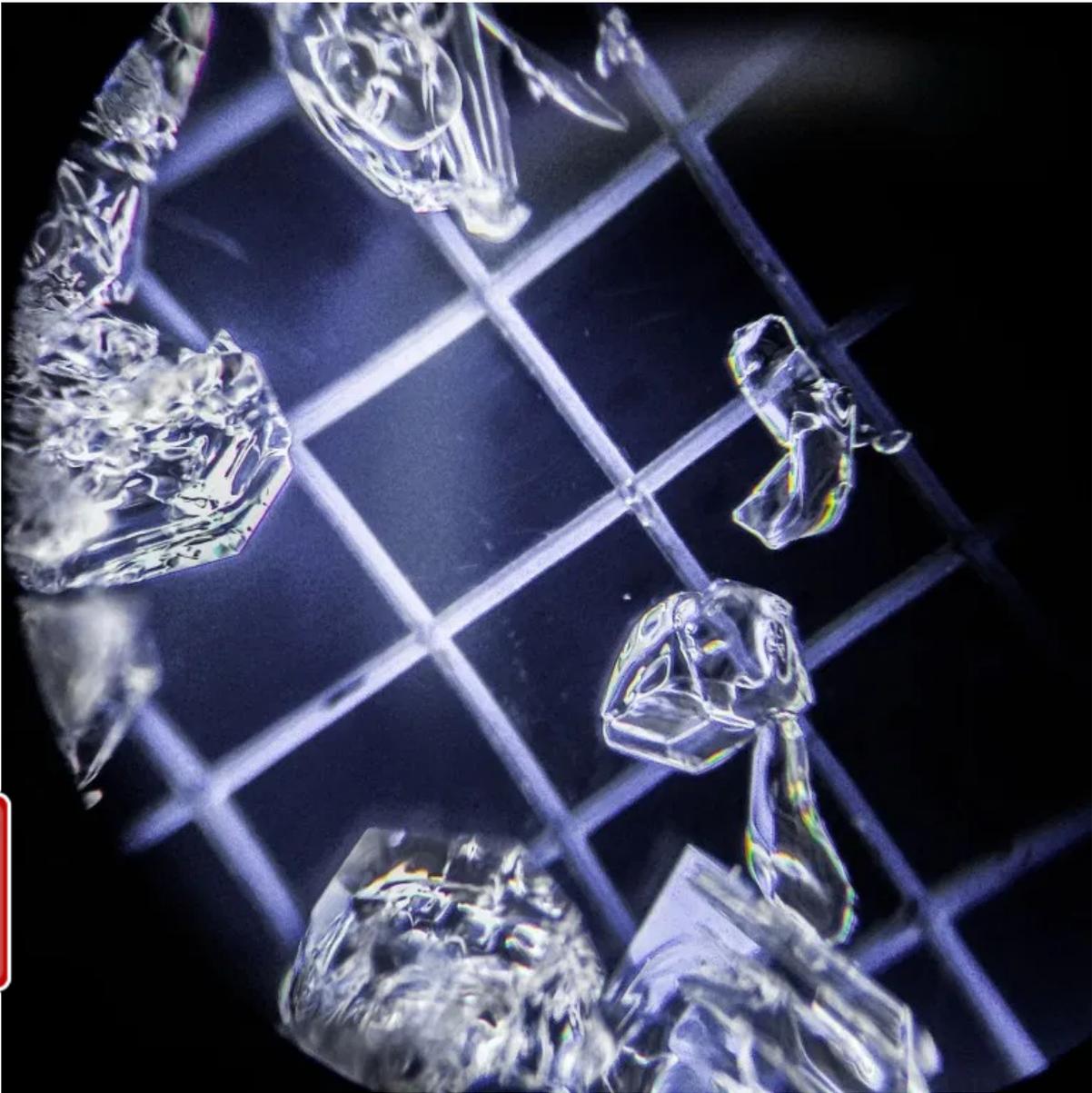


ECTP10 SP  
ECTP11 SP

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Crown Profile Jan 16, 2016 Avalanche Accident



*Weak layer*



# JAN 16 2016 AVY ACCIDENT

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