

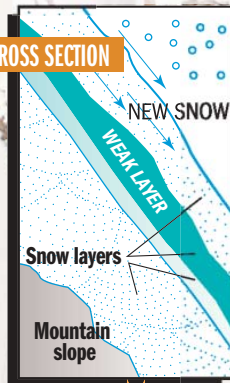


Avalanches

WHY THEY OCCUR

Avalanches can be triggered when a heavy or dense snowfall accumulates on the snowbase of a steep slope.

CROSS SECTION



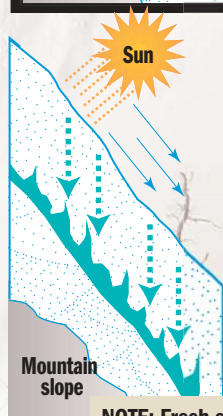
Typical avalanche

Different layers of snow have varying degrees of cohesiveness according to their position and varying weather conditions between snowstorms (example: Melting snow that freezes again before the next storm creates a very icy surface that new snow will not stick to easily).

Wet avalanche

As temperatures increase, the sun may melt the surface of the snow. The moisture sinks below and percolates. This weakens and erodes the base, causing the snow to slough away.

At times the weight of a heavy snowfall over a short period of time may break away, causing an avalanche.



NOTE: Fresh snow may begin to slide if disturbed by winds, snowmobiles or skiers.