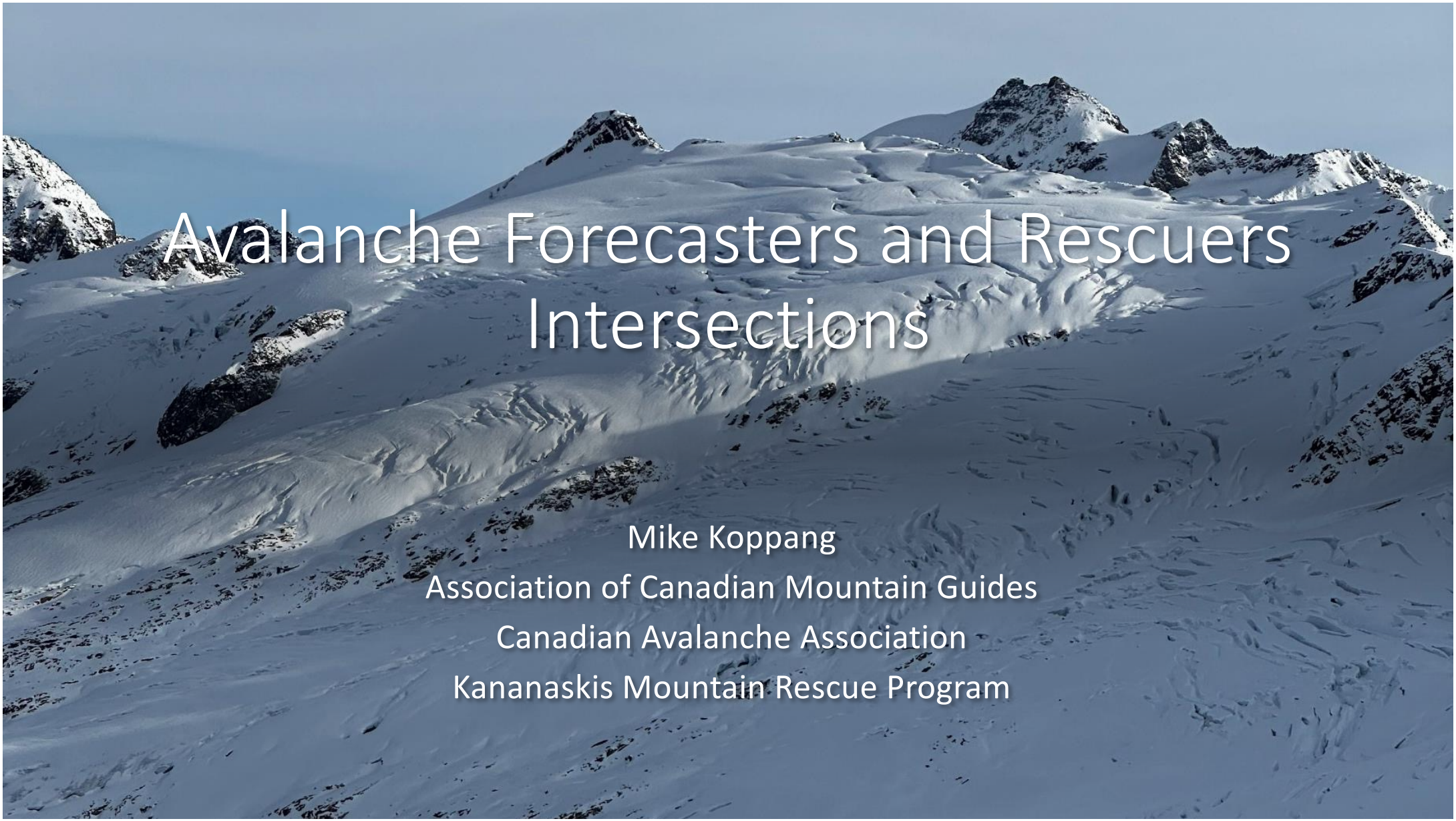


Avalanche Forecasters and Rescuers Intersections

Mike Koppang
Association of Canadian Mountain Guides
Canadian Avalanche Association
Kananaskis Mountain Rescue Program

Models Differ Across Canada

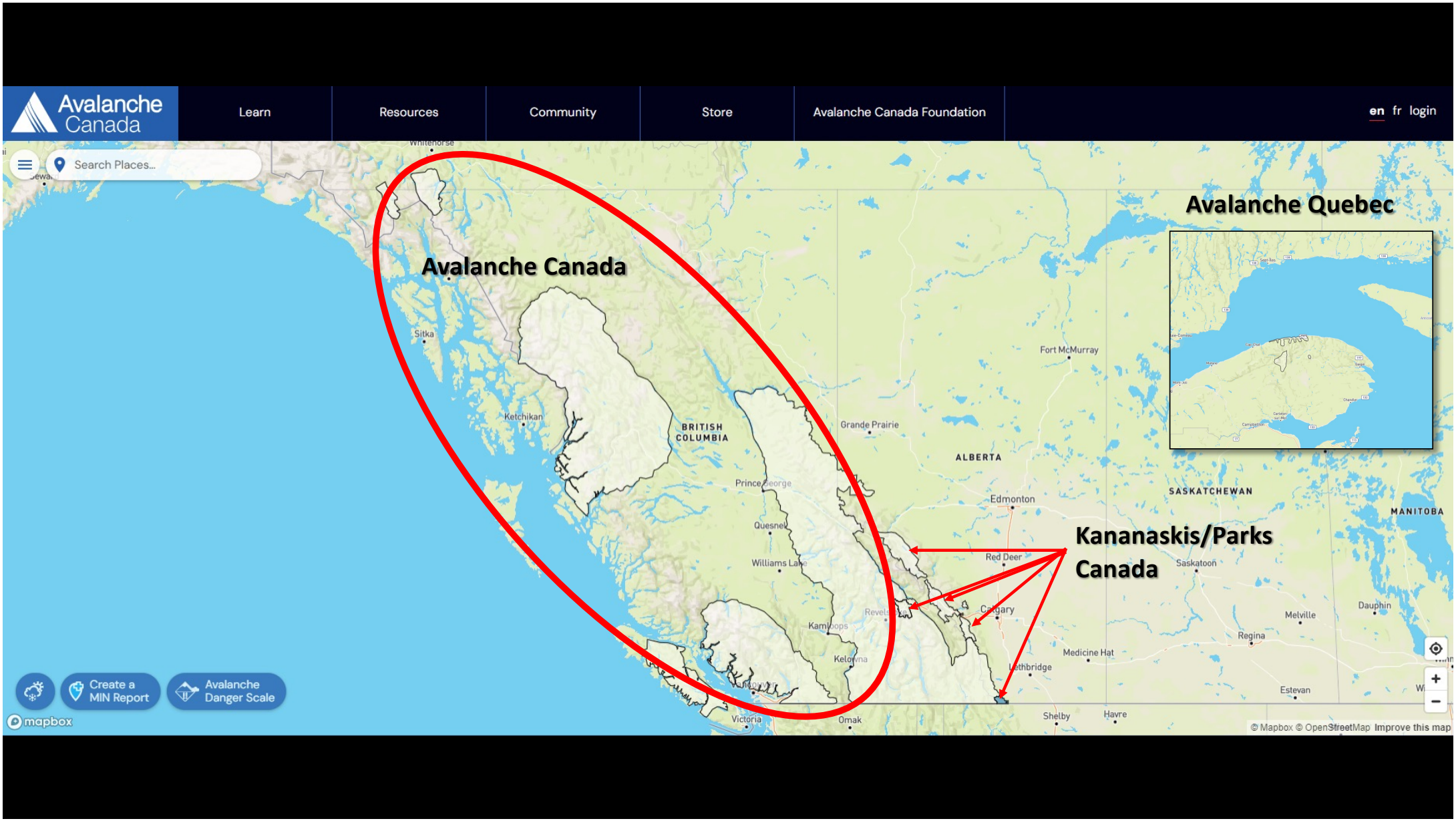
Public Forecasting Agencies

- Avalanche Canada *(Not for profit)*
- Parks Canada - Government
- Kananaskis Region - Government
- Avalanche Quebec *(Not for Profit)*

Rescue Agencies

- RCMP/Local Police are the authority/tasking agency in most jurisdictions nationally
- Provinces primarily rely on Volunteers rescuers
- Parks Canada/Kananaskis Region Professional Agencies within there regions.

Classification: Protected A


Avalanche Canada
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Community
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Avalanche Canada Foundation
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Kananaskis/Parks Canada
BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
SASKATCHEWAN
MANITOBA
Sitka
Ketchikan
Fort McMurray
Grande Prairie
Prince George
Quesnel
Williams Lake
Edmonton
Red Deer
Saskatoon
Calgary
Kamloops
Kelowna
Medicine Hat
Lethbridge
Regina
Melville
Dauphin
Estevan
Victoria
Omak
Shelby
Havre
Create a MIN Report
Avalanche Danger Scale
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© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

Xh
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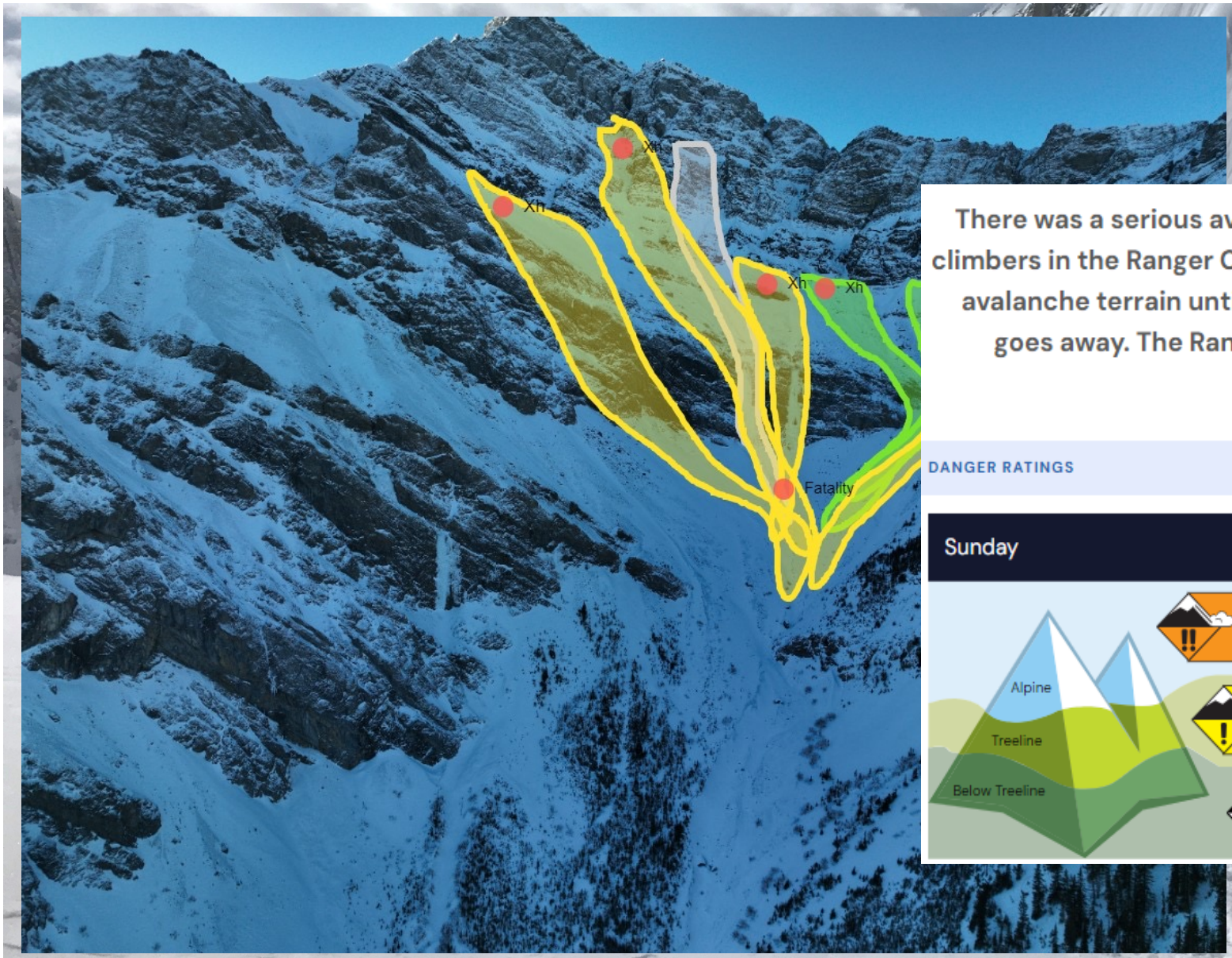
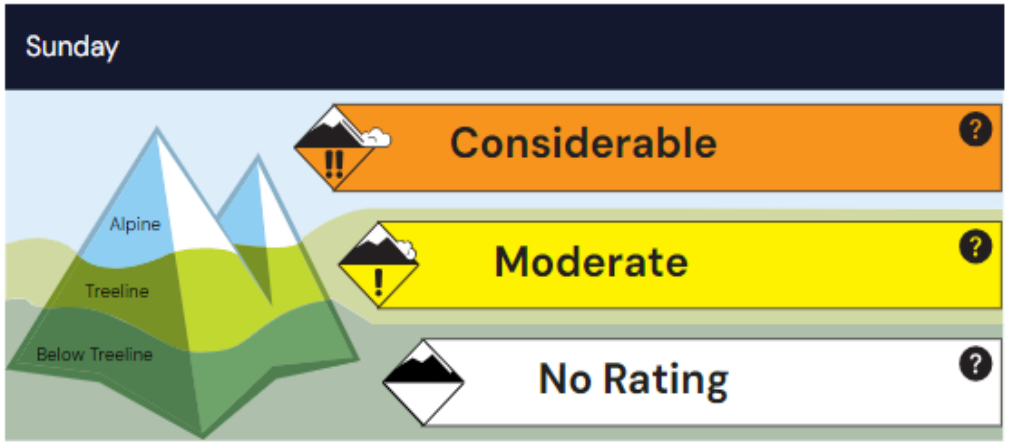


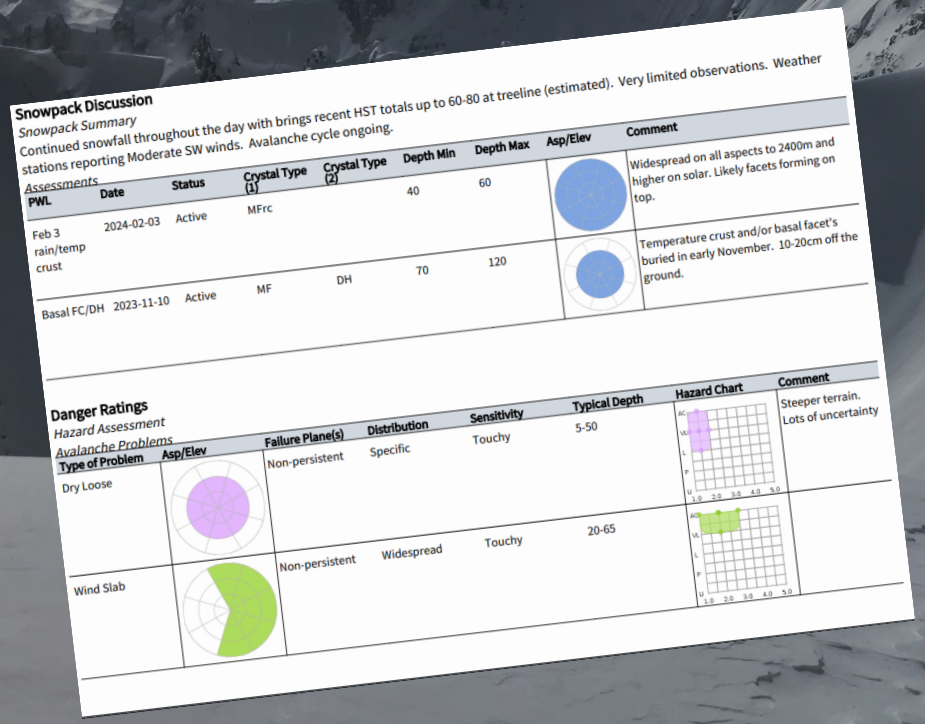
There was a serious avalanche incident today involving ice climbers in the Ranger Creek area. Avoid exposure to all alpine avalanche terrain until this wind induced avalanche cycle goes away. The Ranger Creek drainage will be closed tomorrow.

DANGER RATINGS



Canadian Avalanche Association

Information Exchange (Infoex)



Snowpack Discussion

Snowpack Summary

Continued snowfall throughout the day with brings recent HST totals up to 60-80 at treeline (estimated). Very limited observations. Weather stations reporting Moderate SW winds. Avalanche cycle ongoing.

Assessments

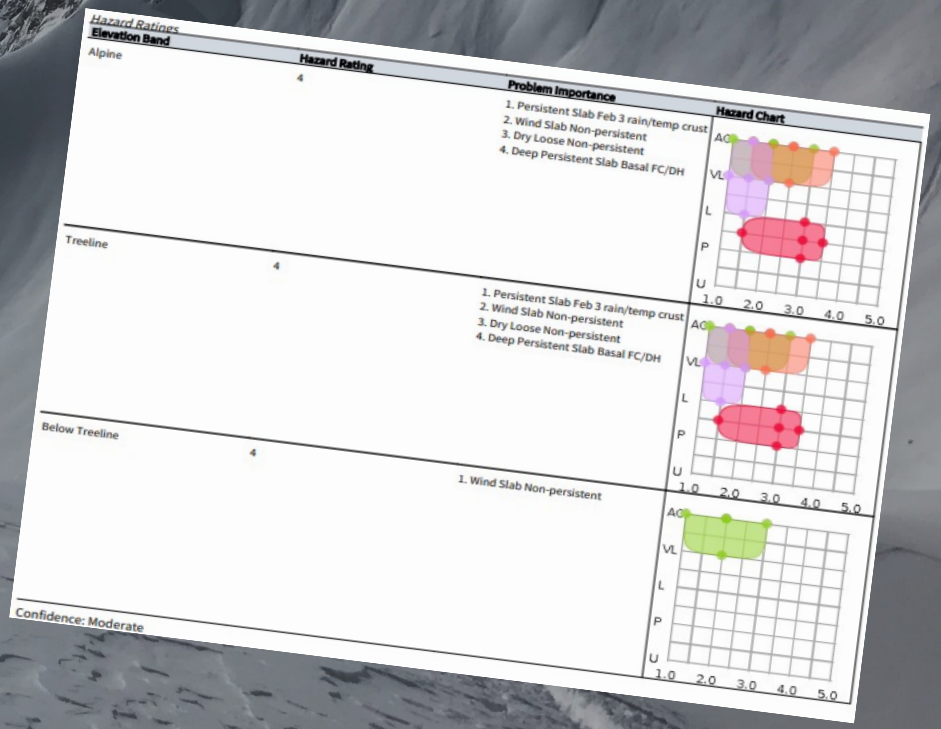
PWL	Date	Status	Crystal Type (1)	Crystal Type (2)	Depth Min	Depth Max	Asp/Elev	Comment
Feb 3 rain/temp crust	2024-02-03	Active	MFrc		40	60		Widespread on all aspects to 2400m and higher on solar. Likely facets forming on top.
Basal FC/DH	2023-11-10	Active	MF	DH	70	120		Temperature crust and/or basal facet's buried in early November. 10-20cm off the ground.

Danger Ratings

Hazard Assessment

Avalanche Problems

Type of Problem	Asp/Elev	Failure Plane(s)	Distribution	Sensitivity	Typical Depth	Hazard Chart	Comment
Dry Loose		Non-persistent	Specific	Touchy	5-50		Steeper terrain. Lots of uncertainty
Wind Slab		Non-persistent	Widespread	Touchy	20-65		



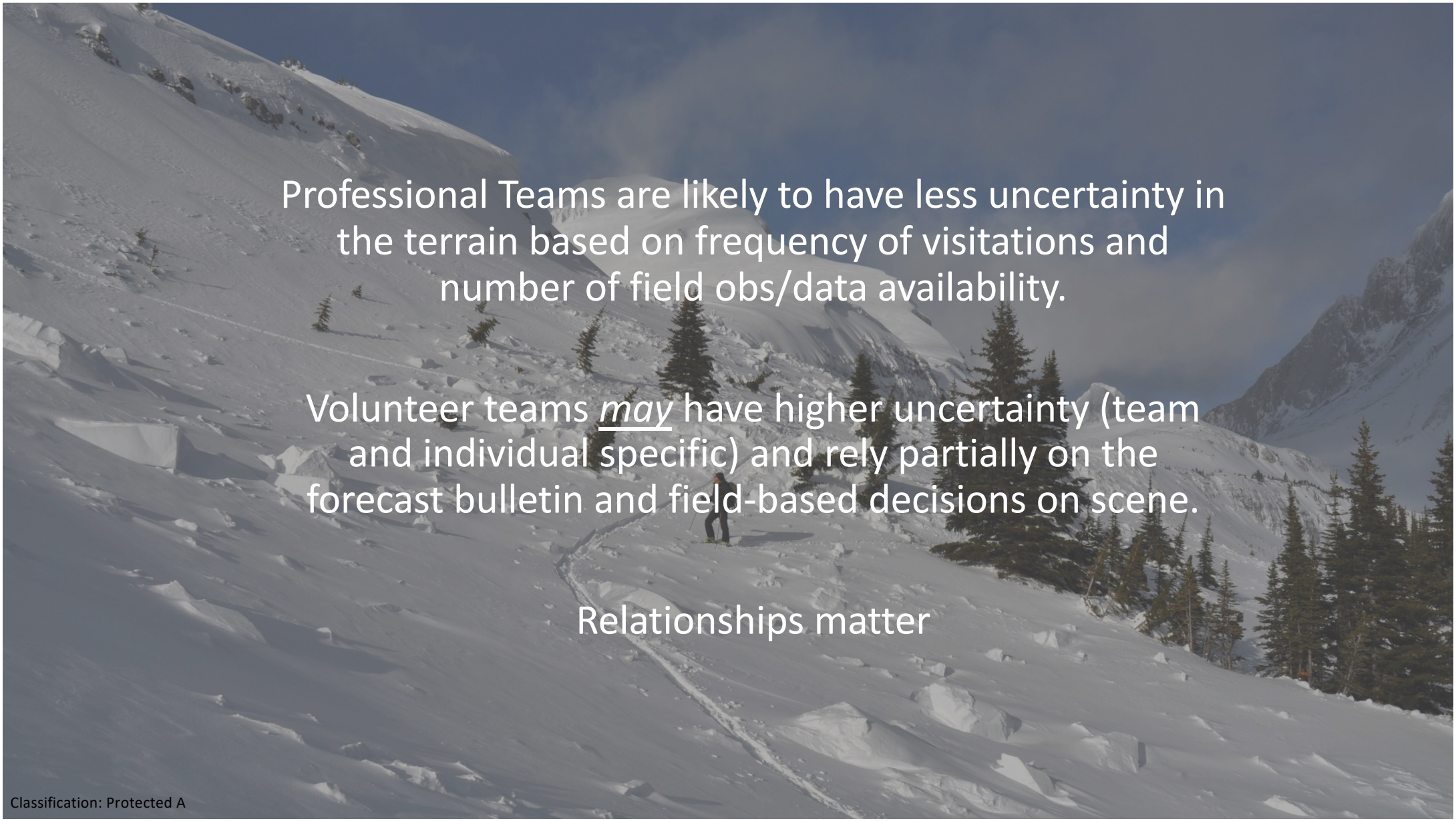
Hazard Ratings

Elevation Band	Hazard Rating	Problem Importance	Hazard Chart
Alpine	4	1. Persistent Slab Feb 3 rain/temp crust 2. Wind Slab Non-persistent 3. Dry Loose Non-persistent 4. Deep Persistent Slab Basal FC/DH	
Treeline	4	1. Persistent Slab Feb 3 rain/temp crust 2. Wind Slab Non-persistent 3. Dry Loose Non-persistent 4. Deep Persistent Slab Basal FC/DH	
Below Treeline	4	1. Wind Slab Non-persistent	

Confidence: Moderate

Used by Volunteer SAR teams as well as forecasters to inform decisions and/or Public Bulletins.

Content is vetted by a Canadian Avalanche Association Professional Member before submission.



Professional Teams are likely to have less uncertainty in the terrain based on frequency of visitations and number of field obs/data availability.

Volunteer teams *may* have higher uncertainty (team and individual specific) and rely partially on the forecast bulletin and field-based decisions on scene.

Relationships matter

Classification: Protected A

Classification: Protected A