Climber triggered wind slab in Flanders

Flanders Creek
Northern Gallatin
11/11/2018
Code
SS-AFu-R0-D1-O
Elevation
9000
Aspect
SE
Latitude
45.44290
Longitude
-110.93200
Notes

Climbers triggered this very small wind slab on the way to a climb up Flanders in Hyalite (11/11). A tiny slide to a skier can be bad news for a climber since losing one's balance or getting pushed off a cliff can be deadly. From an email (edited):

Hyalite Snow Conditions:...we dug two hasty pits on east facing slopes in Flanders....
8200'- isolated opening in trees in an area on rocks, shallower snow (~50cm). CT12 at the ground, again just tapping on the back of other hand, so not super legit, but did raise eyebrows.
8450'- Opening below cliff bands on exposed traverse. Deeper snow (~80-90cm). No concerns other than storm snow and snow coming off of cliff bands. Classic Hyalite shifty winds. We released a small (10-15cm) storm slab on traverse into the climb .
Weather: It was snowing and blowing all day.

Photo: S. Magro

Number of slides
1
Number caught
0
Number buried
0
Avalanche Type
Soft slab avalanche
Trigger
Foot penetration
Trigger Modifier
u-An unintentional release
R size
0
D size
1
Bed Surface
O - Old snow

Problem Type
Wind Slab
Images
Small wind slab triggered in Flanders
Slab Thickness units
centimeters
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Multiple Avalanches
Advisory Year
18-19