

Definitions for Weather Inputs

Wind Speed Values

The following values are used to approximate wind speed in the application per section 1.2 of the Snow, Weather and Avalanche Guidelines (SWAG)

Wind Speed Value	Description
Calm	Smoke rises vertically
Light	Leaves and twigs in motion
Moderate	Branches and small trees in motion; snow is drifting
Strong	Large trees in motion, heavy drifting
Extreme	Branches falling off trees, difficult to walk

Cloud Cover Values

The cloud cover descriptions used in the application are based on a “rule of eight”. Following are descriptions of the values. These values conform to Snow, Weather and Avalanche Guidelines (SWAG) Section 1.13

Value	Description
Clear	Clouds non-existent
Few	Clouds exist but comprise less than 1/4 of the sky
Scattered	Clouds comprise between 1/4 and 1/2 of the sky
Broken	Clouds cover more than ½ but less than all of the sky
Overcast	Sky is completely obscured by clouds
Obscured/Fog	Sky is obscured
Valley Fog	Fog exists below you

Precipitation Intensity

The numerical values associated with precipitation intensity are based on the Snow, Weather and Avalanche Guidelines (SWAG) Section 1.13. For simplicity, the application groups Very Light Rain or Snow with “Light, and Very Heavy Snow with “Heavy”.

Value	Description
Light	Snow accumulates at the rate of 0.5cm (0.5”) per hour or less; Rain accumulates at rate of 2.5mm (0.1”) or less per hour.
Moderate	Snow accumulates at a rate of about 2.0cm (1.0”) per hour; Rain accumulates at a rate of 2.6 - 7.5mm (0.1-0.3”) per hour.
Heavy	Snow accumulates at a rate of 5cm (2.5”) per hour or more Rain accumulates at rate of 7.5mm (0.3”) per hour