

Avalanche Involvement Report



This report was submitted to the CAC by British Columbia Coroner's Service in the interest of public safety.

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DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

Date/Time: 2009-03-21 15:00

Description: Whitewater Creek area - near Blue River

Coordinates: ()

Mtn Range: Cariboo Mountain Range

Province: BC

GROUP INFORMATION

Type:

Activity: Snowmobiling

Size: 4

AVALANCHE INFORMATION

Number: 1 **Size:** Size class 3 **Type:** Slab avalanche

Trigger: Ma (Suspect triggered from below or mid slope.)

Dimension: 400m wide; ran for 300m; average slab depth of 110cm.

Failure Pl.: ~ -

Starting Zone: *Location:* Treeline at approx. 2100m.

Character: SE; 45 degrees; Cross-loaded Slope; Broad Open Basin.
SE-E aspect. Sparse forest, steep slope. After avalanche, glide crack appeared on south slope and appeared to be getting wider but did not release.

Comment: Slab thickness 70-150 cm. No fracture line profile done due to high hazard.

INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

Number of people involved: 1 partially buried - breathing impaired.

Number of people injured: 1 injured and 1 deceased.

WEATHER AND SNOWPACK INFORMATION

Weather: 40 cm snowfall and strong winds from S in past 48 hours. Signs of thaw instability observed. Mod solar radiation at time of avalanche.

Snowpack: Widespread natural avalanche cycle 24 hr to size 4. Huge load and wind in past week.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

From evidence of snowmobile tracks, suspect that group was moving from bowl to bowl, gradually increasing their highmarks. In bowl where slope was triggered, there were 2 sledders at time of initiation. One was able to ride out and deceased was dragged through sparse trees mid slope. ABS bag was deployed.

ATTACHMENTS

No attachments.

Date and Time of Report: 2009-03-25 10:02

**The CAC Forecaster Team thanks the observers for
their contribution to avalanche safety in Canada!**