

Avalanche Fatality, Tobacco Roots

Bell Lake

Out of Advisory Area

1/25/2019

Code

SS-ASu-R4-D3-O

Elevation

9000

Aspect

E

Latitude

45.54220

Longitude

-111.99800

Notes

Four skiers were ascending a steep, heavily treed slope and triggered a large avalanche. The two skiers highest on the slope grabbed trees, and the lower two were caught and partially buried. One died from trauma at the site, and the other was air-lifted to emergency care with serious injuries. (A more detailed accident report will be available soon. Check back in a day or two.) Our deepest condolences go out the family and friends of the victim.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

4

Number killed

1

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

4

D size

3

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

30.0 inches

Vertical Fall

1100ft

Slab Width

425.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Faceted Crystals

Slab Layer Grain Type

Precipitation Particles

Images

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - Snowpit Profile](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - crown](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - crown and path from air](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - crown from air 2](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - crown from air](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - partial burial location uphill](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - partial burial location downhill](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - path and partial burial location](#)

[Skier fatality Bell Lake - partial burial location](#)

Attached Videos

[Avalanche Fatality Bell Lake](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[18-19](#)