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Clearwater, Valemount - Avalanche Near Blue River Claims Alberta Man

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File #Valemount 2009-0182

On Saturday, March 21, 2009, Valemount RCMP Detachment received a report that a helicopter crew working in the area spotted several individuals providing CPR to a male snowmobiler that appeared to have been caught in an avalanche.

The avalanche occurred in the Thunder River drainage basin north of Blue River. The members of the victim's party were able to dig him out of the snow and provided emergency first aid. A rescue team from Blue River attended the scene and evacuated the avalanche victim by helicopter. The victim was rushed to the Clearwater Hospital by ambulance. Unfortunately, he was pronounced dead at the Clearwater Hospital.


The 51 year old male is a resident of Sherwood Park, Alberta. At this time the victim's name is not being released.

The BC Coroner's Service and the RCMP are following up on this incident.

The RCMP are again reminding the snowmobiling public to be mindful of the high avalanche risk currently in existence in the back country and to check with local sources for current snow conditions.

For further information, please contact:

Cst. J. BOS of Valemount RCMP at  (250)566-4466

or Cst. L. TONN of Clearwater RCMP at  (250)674-2237

Valemount RCMP File #2009-182 refers, Clearwater RCMP File #2009-270 refers.

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