

RCMP in B.C. > Newsroom > 100 Mile House Mica Mountain area fatal avalanche

100 Mile House Mica Mountain, snowmobilers caught in fatal avalanche

2009-03-19 10:24 PDT

File #2009-762

On March 18th, 2009 at 4:02 PM, a report of an avalanche was received at the 100 Mile House Detachment. The caller stated the he and another adult male were snowmobiling on Mica Mountain on Wednesday the 18th, 130 kilometres Northeast of 100 Mile House, when they were struck by an avalanche. One of the two males was completely buried. The caller advised RCMP that attempts to locate the buried snowmobiler, were unsuccessful and that he had left the scene to summon help. The male who was uninjured would be returning to the scene to await emergency services arrival.

The uninjured snowmobiler had made his way out to a residence near Canim Lake where he contacted police. He then returned to the scene of the slide and continued his search for his friend. Other snowmobilers who were in the area joined the search and were able to locate the male with the use of an emergency beacon. All efforts to revive the man were unsuccessful. The snowmobilers were unable to remove the deceased and were forced to vacated the area due to darkness.

Upon receiving this call 100 Mile House RCMP, contacted the Provincial Emergency Center and resources were immediately put in motion to the area. On March 18th an avalanche specialist was contacted and flew over the scene via the RCMP's Air 4 helicopter from Kamloops. The specialist deemed the area unsafe for rescuers to enter at that time.

Today Thursday March 19th, the Ministry of Transportation along with emergency personnel, will be attending the area to determine the course of action in order to safely enter the area and recover the deceased. Considerations are being given to the need for the detonation of explosives to stabilize the snow pack to make the area safe in order to conduct a safe recovery of the deceased.

Currently the 100 Mile House RCMP is working with the 100 Mile House and Central Cariboo Search and Rescue Teams assisted by RCMP Kamloops Air Services and Ministry of Transportation (TRANS). At news release time, emergency personnel are working on the safe recovery and removal of the deceased from the avalanche site.

The area is non accessible by vehicle and described as remote, with RCMP maintaining the scene overnight to ensure no further recreational users entered the area. It has been confirmed that a previous tragic and fatal avalanche occurred on December 24th 2007 in this same area where two snowmobilers were killed.

The 100 Mile House RCMP are continuing their investigation along side the Provincial Coroners Service who will also be attending the area today.

The name of the deceased has not been released at this time pending the notification of the Next of Kin.

Further details will be made available later on today as the recovery operation unfolds.

Update March 19, 11:06 AM: "Recovery of the deceased was safely completed this morning by 10:30 am".

[Newer Article](#)
[Langley - Another Successful Night for P...](#)

[Older Article](#)
[CCS - Beware of Recent Fraud Scheme](#)

Related Articles:

Date Modified: 2009-03-19