



# Overdue snowmobiler recovered from avalanche in the Owlshead Mountain Range

## Sicamous

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The Sicamous RCMP have confirmed that a snowmobiler that was reported overdue early Tuesday morning has been located deceased. The man's body was recovered from an avalanche slide in the Morton Lake area of the Owlshead Mountain Range following an air and ground search.

At around 2:20 am on Tuesday March 8, 2016, the family of a 34 year-old Sicamous man reported him as being overdue from a snowmobile excursion in the Owlshead Mountain Range area. The man had been last seen Sunday afternoon and was expected to have returned by Tuesday evening from his solo outing.

The Sicamous RCMP immediately activated the Shuswap Search and Rescue team and at first light the RCMP Air 4 helicopter flew into the area, in efforts to locate any sign of the man, while ground search crews made their way to the specific area. It was known that the man was carrying both a GPS spot beacon device and a transceiver receiver. Hampered by poor visibility, the air search was short, however successful in locating a fresh avalanche slide and a single snowmobile track.

The Sicamous RCMP was able to obtain a pinged location from the GPS device agency which corroborated their findings at the fresh avalanche location near Skinny Ridge by Morton Lake. The ground search crew included Shuswap SAR, family and friends and members of the Eagles Valley Snowmobile club. Additional support was provided by Eclipse Helicopter who also flew over the area with a Ministry of Highways Avalanche technician in order to properly assess the risk to ground crews that would be attempting to recover the man.

Ground searchers were about to be turned around due to the continued avalanche risk, just as some of them had made it onto the slide area and commenced searching for the man. The man was located deceased with the aid of the transceiver receiver that he was equipped with.

Searchers were successful in safely airlifting the man's body from the area and have concluded the search.

The RCMP will continue to assist the BC Coroners Office with their investigation into the man's death.

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