

Double Avalanche Fatality, Scotch Bonnet Mountain

Scotch Bonnet

Cooke City

12/27/2021

Code

SS-AMu-R2-D2.5-O

Elevation

10000

Aspect

SE

Latitude

45.05660

Longitude

-109.95100

Notes

On December 27, two snowmobilers were caught and killed in an avalanche on Scotch Bonnet Mountain, north of Cooke City. A group of 8 snowmobilers from Minnesota were on their second day of riding when 2 of their machines got stuck on the SE face of Scotch Bonnet Mountain. Two members of their group rode up to help them dig out and the avalanche was triggered soon after. It broke 4-5 feet deep, ran 300 feet wide and 500 feet vertical and killed 2 riders, burying them under 4-5 feet of debris. Everyone had rescue equipment and they were recovered by their party. Park County Sheriff Search and Rescue brought the victims to town. The avalanche broke on a layer of facets 1.5 feet off the ground underneath a thick [slab](#) of wind drifted snow. The avalanche is classified SS-AMu-R2-D2.5-O.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

2

Number buried

2

Number killed

2

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Snowmobile

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

2

D size

2.5

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Wind-Drifted Snow

Slab Thickness

60.0 inches

Vertical Fall

500ft

Slab Width

300.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Faceted Crystals

Weak Layer grain size

4.00mm

Weak Layer Hardness

4F-

Slab Layer Grain Type

Wind Broken precipitation particles

Slab Layer Grain Size

0.50mm

Slab Layer Hardness

1F+

Images

[Overview of Scotch Bonnet avalanche_marked](#)

[Upper portion avalanche - Scotch Bonnet](#)

[Crown - Scotch Bonnet Fatality](#)

[GNFAC Forecasters at Crown - Scotch Bonnet](#)

[Scotch Bonnet Crown Profile](#)

[Digging Out Sleds after an avalanche on Scotch Bonnet](#)

[Ian at the crown of an avalanche that killed 2 snowmobilers](#)

Attached Videos

[Scotch Bonnet Avalanche Fatality - 27 Dec 2021](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[21-22](#)