

Miller Mountain Avalanche Fatality

Accident Report

[miller_mountain_avalanche_fatality_220219.pdf](#)

Activity

Snowbiking

Date

2/19/2022

1 snow biker caught, partially buried, and killed

Synopsis

On February 19, 2022, three snowmobilers and two snow bikers were in Sheep Creek on the south face of Miller Mountain north of Cooke City. The two snow bikers were high on the slope when one stopped on a small ridge while the other climbed higher and triggered a large avalanche. The avalanche carried him down through a gully and over a cliff where he was partially buried near the toe of the debris. His arm and airbag were visible and his head was 1 foot under the surface. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful. The avalanche was 800 feet wide, averaged 2 feet deep (estimated) and ran 1,200 vertical feet. The avalanche likely broke on facets and [depth hoar](#) at the bottom of the snowpack in an area that was thinly covered and recently wind-loaded. The debris was up to 15 feet deep. The avalanche is classified SS-AMu-R3-D3-O.

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