



OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tracy LeClair
970-389-2475 (cell)
TracyL@co.summit.co.us

Contact: Charles Pitman
(970) 333-9856 (cell)
CDPitman2@comcast.net

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AVALANCHE REPORTED IN SUMMIT COUNTY; ONE REPORTED MISSING

SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO – At approximately noon on February 10, 2014, an avalanche was reported in a backcountry area south of Keystone Ski Resort. The reporting party was caught and was able to self-extract; however, he was unable to locate the individual he was skiing with.

The missing skier is a male in his 40's, from the Front Range. His identity is not being released.

Search teams with dogs were initiated from both the bottom and the top of the slide area. Summit County Rescue Group responded with additional personnel and conducted probe searches. The search continued until approximately 6:00 p.m., when visibility and conditions became too dangerous for further operations.

Search teams will be re-deployed this morning, as soon as avalanche mitigation is completed and the area is deemed safe. Roughly 40 representatives, including 4 dogs, from Keystone Ski Resort, Arapahoe Basin Ski Area, Breckenridge Ski Resort, Summit County Rescue Group, Vail Mountain Rescue, Alpine Rescue Team and the U.S. Forest Service will be on-scene today to continue the search.

The avalanche debris field was reportedly around 2,000 feet in length, with depths up to 9 feet. The cause is still under investigation.

According to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC), the current avalanche danger rating is HIGH. Avalanche conditions are considered very dangerous and travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended.

More information will be released when it becomes available.

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