



AVALANCHE REPORTING FORM

1. General incident

- a. **Date, time place:** March 18, 2006; approx 2:30pm; Ellery Bowl / Chute Out
- b. **Number caught:** 1 caught in broken cornice debris
- c. **Number buried:** 0
- d. **Number killed and injured:** 1
- e. **Narrative:** Bill Lundeen, a TPR employee on his time off, toured up to the top of the Dana Plateau. His goal was to ski Ellery Bowl through the standard descent route. On his way to the Ellery Bowl entry point, Bill decided to look over the cornice down in to the Chute Out, a pronounced chute located looker's right of Ellery Bowl. Bill did not intend to ski Chute Out, rather he just wanted to see what the entrance looked like at the time. Bill believed he was far enough back from the edge of the large cornice that forms at the top of Chute Out, but nevertheless the cornice broke out from under him. When the cornice broke, Bill fell into the chute, together with large pieces of broken cornice debris and a small amount of surface sluff. There was no visible fracture line that would have indicated a slab release or any other type of avalanche. Bill was swept down in the debris from the top of the chute and down to the end of the chute, where the apron broadens out into Ellery Bowl. The debris continued further down the bowl. However, Bill was separated from the moving debris at the end of the Chute Out, and came to a stop below a large rock outcropping. Bill suffered numerous injuries, but nevertheless managed to scoot himself down Ellery Bowl, across the Rhinedollar Dam pedestrian bridge, and stopped when he reached the snow-covered Tioga Pass Road. Upon noticing that Bill had not returned by the check-in time of 5:30pm, TPR employees set out toward Ellery Bowl, his believed location, on a snowmobile, and located Bill along the side of the road. Bill was placed on the snowmobile and returned to the TPR, where he was evaluated for injuries by an EMT. A physician experienced in trauma evaluation and surgery was consulted by telephone. Upon determining that Bill needed to be and could be transported, he was placed in a cocoon of sleeping bags and secured in to a rescue toboggan, transported down the hill via snowmobile, and then to Mammoth Hospital. Time from rescue to hospital was approximately 2 hours.

2. Avalanche

- a. **Snow conditions:** approximately 6 to 8 inches of light density snow on top of packed powder.
- b. **Crown depth:** none visible.
- c. **Slab width/length:** broken cornice was no longer clearly visible by next morning due to overnight snow. Rating of the debris path was approximately the equivalent of a D3 slide.
- d. **Avalanche Type (HS, SS, WS, etc.):** C -- Cornice; no visible sign of avalanche.
- e. **Starting Zone (Slope, Aspect, Elevation):** broken cornice at top of Chute Out. Aspect is North, elevation is 11000 to 9500. Slope initiates at 45 to 50 degrees, and runs out at approximately 30 degrees.
- f. **Path length:** Cornice debris path was approximately 1000 vertical feet.
- g. **Path-relative class:** n/a
- h. **Trigger:** Cornice was broken by weight of skier.
- i. **Ski cut:** n/a

3. Group dynamics

- a. **Familiar with terrain:** Skier was very experienced with terrain.
- b. **Mixed gender group:** Skier was touring alone.
- c. **Sense of commitment or reaching objective:** Skier states he did not intend to ski chute, rather he intended to ski less severe terrain.
- d. **Level of training within group:** skier was very experienced.
- e. **Was there a leader:** n/a
- f. **Pre-existing tracks:** no
- g. **Rescue gear? Trained in its use:** n/a
- h. **Any formal snow evaluation:** n/a
- i. **Any "hasty" snow evaluation:** n/a
- j. **Any discussion of conditions:** n/a

4. Danger signs?

- a. **Recent new snow/SWE deposition:** yes.
- b. **Wind loading:** yes.
- c. **Avalanches visible on other slopes:** no.
- d. **Whoomping, cracking, other signs of instability:** none reported.
- e. **Avalanche advisory at the time:** ESAC advisory on day of incident was "Considerable"
- f. **Terrain trap:** cornice.

Please email this completed form to office@esavalanche.org.
Thanks for the report!