

Three snowmobilers caught in very large slide on Buck Ridge

Buck Ridge

Northern Madison

1/4/2020

Code

HS-AMu-R4-D3-G

Elevation

9300

Aspect

NE

Latitude

45.17190

Longitude

-111.38000

Notes

From one of the riders caught in the [slide](#), "The 3 persons involved were traveling across the slope about 20-30 yards up from the tree line parallel to the ridge line in the [slide](#) area when it broke, not [high marking](#) and not traveling uphill. One rider did increase his elevation while traveling across the slope but was never more than 1/4 of the way up when the [slide](#) was triggered."

@carter.olson, "I witnessed three snowmobilers [trigger](#) and get caught in an avalanche at second Yellowmule (Buck Ridge) at 12:40PM today. The lead snowmobiler triggered the avalanche while descending from his high mark with the other two snowmobilers below him. The lead snowmobiler was able to run out the avalanche to a degree and made it to the edge of the runout at the bottom. The other two snowmobilers were pointed uphill when the avalanche was triggered and shot into the trees when attempting to outrun the avalanche. The female was buried to her torso and the male was buried to his waist. Both sleds were buried about three feet under the debris. The Avalanche propagated about 1500ft wide. Luckily everyone involved was not harmed, just a broken arm on one of the buried sleds.

Luckily I was able to jump into action, yelling "Avalanche, Avalanche, Avalanche" grabbing everyone in my group's attention. Then I told everyone to get their beacons out and put them to search and get to where we last saw the snowmobilers. On our way to the last point of sight of the snowmobilers, they all screamed out they were ok."

Number of slides

1

Number caught

2

Number buried

2

Number killed

0

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Snowmobile

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

4

D size

3

Bed Surface

G - Ground

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

84.0 inches

Vertical Fall

150ft

Slab Width

850.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Depth Hoar

Slab Layer Grain Type

Wind packed

Slab Layer Hardness

K

Images

[Snowmobile triggered avalanche Buck Ridge crown 3](#)

[Snowmobile triggered avalanche Buck Ridge crown](#)

[Snowmobile triggered avalanche Buck Ridge crown 2](#)

[Panorama of Buck Ridge avalanche](#)

[Sled buried in debris at Buck Ridge](#)

[Crown of Buck Ridge avalanche](#)

[Snowmobile triggered avalanche Buck Ridge 3](#)

[Snowmobile triggered avalanche Buck Ridge 2](#)

[Snowmobile triggered very large avalanche Buck Ridge](#)

Attached Videos

[Snowmobile triggered 10 foot deep, 2 partial buried - 4 Jan 2020](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[19-20](#)