

Skier triggered avalanche to ground on Knowles Peak

Knowles Peak

Out of Advisory Area

3/20/2020

Code

HS-ASu-R3-D3-O

Aspect

NW

Latitude

45.30480

Longitude

-110.54300

Notes

Skier triggered avalanche on Knowles Peak in the Absaroka Range (outside of advisory area). Avalanche was triggered by 3rd skier on 3/20/2020.

From obs: "I need to report a pretty sizable avalanche that my group triggered today in the Absorokas up the East Fork of Mill Creek on a Northwest facing slope. I believe it was approximately a D3 in scale, the crown was 2-4 feet and about 600 ft wide. It ran to the ground in the start zone and carried debris about 2000ft vertical feet. The debris ran 200ft shy of the the East Fork Rd. It was triggered by the third of three skiers. The skier that triggered the [slide](#) took a slightly steeper (approx 34 degrees) line than the other two skiers. The crown started at a convexity in a shallower spot in the snow. We skied this slope last weekend and did a [stability test](#) and got a low energy ECT 22. We operated under the assumption that despite some new snow [loading](#) the snowpack was generally increasing in [stability](#). We did a hasty pit to see how the new snow was bonding to the old snow surface and it appeared to be bonding well. Solar [loading](#) was a concern however this [aspect](#) seemed cold and there were no signs of rollers. We really thought this was a good to go situation. The third skier who triggered and was caught lost a ski but was able to ski out of the [slide](#). The two skiers below traversed out of the [slide](#) path and kept eyes on the caught third skier. Skiers maintained visual contact at all times. We regrouped and amazingly found the lost ski in the debris pile. It was a scary moment to say the least. Thankfully we are all fine."

Number of slides

1

Number caught

1

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

3

D size

3

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

36.0 inches

Vertical Fall

2000ft

Slab Width

500.00ft

Images

[Skier triggered slide on Knowles Peak 2](#)

[Skier triggered avalanche on Knowles](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[19-20](#)