

Splitboarder triggered, caught and killed in Beehive

Beehive Basin

Northern Madison

2/14/2021

Code

HS-ARu-R4-D2.5-O

Elevation

9100

Aspect

SW

Latitude

45.32690

Longitude

-111.38400

Notes

On February 14, 2021, two splitboarders triggered an avalanche in Beehive Basin north of Big Sky. They were skinning up the slope when they triggered the avalanche. Both members of the party were caught, but Boarder 1 was able to grab trees and not be buried. Boarder 2 was carried approximately 300 feet downslope where he hit a tree and was critically injured. He was partially buried, entangled around a tree with his head downhill. Boarder 1 heard his partner's screams, called 911 and went to his aid. He administered first aid and worked to keep him warm and calm. Gallatin County Sheriff Search and Rescue in Big Sky (GCSAR) left the trailhead within 45 minutes of the 911 call, skied to the scene and began providing care. A GCSAR helicopter arrived soon afterward and the injured boarder was short hauled to Big Sky Fire Department and medical care. Boarder 2 died from his injuries that night. The avalanche was 300 feet wide, 500 feet vertical and averaged 2 feet deep. It broke on a layer of facets and near the ground. Read the full accident report here:

<https://www.mtavalanche.com/accident/21/02/16>

Number of slides

1

Number caught

2

Number buried

1

Number killed

1

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Snowboarder

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

4

D size

2.5

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

24.0 inches

Vertical Fall

500ft

Slab Width

300.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Faceted Crystals

Weak Layer grain size

3.00mm

Weak Layer Hardness

F+

Slab Layer Grain Type

Precipitation Particles

Slab Layer Grain Size

0.50mm

Slab Layer Hardness

4F+

Images

[Beehive Fatality Snowpit Profile, 15 Feb 2021](#)

[Beehive avalanche crown close up](#)

[Beehive avalanche, heli on debris](#)

[Beehive avalanche, heli and rescuers on debris](#)

[Beehive Avalanche from air, top half](#)

[Beehive avalanche from air, full](#)

Attached Videos

[Beehive Basin Avalanche Fatality - 15 February 2021](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[20-21](#)