

Sheriff Joe DiSalvo Pitkin County Sheriff's Office 506 East Main Street, Aspen, CO 81611 970-920-5300



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Skier Dies in Avalanche Outside **Snowmass Ski Area Boundary**

CORRECTION TO VICTIM'S AGE AND UPDATES MADE

Snowmass, Pitkin County, Colorado – January 18, 2012 – On Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at approximately 01:45 p.m., the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office received a report of a 43 year old male subject injured on Burnt Mountain. The caller stated that the injured skier had been caught in an avalanche. Burnt Mountain is located outside of the ski area boundary adjacent to the Snowmass Ski Area in Snowmass, CO. Personnel from the Snowmass Ski Patrol, Mountain Rescue Aspen and a deputy from the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office participated.

An investigation done by the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office revealed three acquaintances had met at Snowmass ski area and decided to ski together. Witnesses to the incident reported the 43 year old male dropped in from a ridge above, knocking loose a section of snow. When the skier came to rest at the bottom of the 25 yard long section, the snow caught up to him and buried him.

Bystanders on scene had to dig the subject out from the under the snow, which took approximately 10 minutes, while others on scene contacted 911. Snowmass Ski Patrol arrived on scene while CPR was being administered to the patient by the bystanders. At approximately 02:50 PM the victim was pronounced deceased.

Mountain Rescue Aspen and Snowmass Ski Patrol worked together under adverse conditions to remove the deceased from the mountain. The name of the victim is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Press Release prepared by Deputy Jesse Steindler.

For more information contact: Deputy Alex Burchetta (970) 315-2067 Pcso.pio@pitkinsheriff.com

Our Mission: Guided by constitutional, community, and professional standards, the mission of the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office is to respect human dignity and provide the highest level of service to all. We are committed to the preservation of a peaceful, safe, and healthy environment in the spirit of openness, fairness and tolerance.