

The accident happened about 1:10 p.m., and word was carried to Timberline Lodge by skiers, who arrived there at approximately 1:45 p.m. The Snowcat left Timberline at 2:15 with Forest Service and Lodge employees. Word of the accident was phoned to the president of the Mountain Rescue and Safety Council of Oregon in Portland at 1:53. The Rescue Chairman was notified and left immediately for the mountain. The telephone call committee began to round up rescue personnel.

Although original messages from the scene did request oxygen, this word was not received. The Snow-cat party had a radio in the cab, but due to a lack of manpower, they were not able to carry it to the scene of the accident. At 4:15 p.m. when the Snow-cat party arrived near the base of Crater Rock, where the cat track ends, they received word of the need for oxygen and relayed the message. Arrangements were made with a Hood River pilot to drop a resuscitator on the mountain. At about 5:10 p.m. the plane was in a position for the drop in the crater; the pilot dropped a message asking if they needed the resuscitator. He received a negative reply and the resuscitator was not dropped.

The rescue party, with D.D., arrived at Timberline Lodge at 7:30. There, Dr. R.C., a visitor at the lodge, attended D.D. for nearly one hour. He was then taken by ambulance to Providence Hospital in Portland. He received oxygen continuously en route to the hospital. He arrived at the hospital at approximately 9:35 p.m. He died at 10:10 p.m. Autopsy determined cause of death as asphyxiation.

COMMENT

See also No. 39-1. The warning can be repeated here: Crevassed glacier terrain is the most dangerous place of all to be caught in an avalanche. Even a small and otherwise harmless slide can carry a man into a crevasse and bury him under many feet of snow.

The many members of this climbing party obviously were not fully aware of the possible avalanche danger from melting snow during a June climb. Dangerous conditions can develop or persist any time of the year at high altitudes.

No. 60-1

SOLITUDE SKI AREA, UTAH

13 January 1960

AVALANCHE SUMMARY

At 4:20 p.m., on 13 January, Dr. and Mrs. T.B., both better than average skiers, were skiing on the eastern slope of the Solitude Ski Area. Due to