

Big Cottonwood Snowslide Strands Skiers Five Hours

By Pete Skibsrud
and Stan Bowman

Tribune Staff Writers

Some 3,000 to 4,000 persons were snowbound at ski resorts in Big Cottonwood Canyon about five hours Saturday when an avalanche rumbled down the canyon wall in what is known as the Circle All slide area.

The slide occurred Saturday at 12:40 p.m. and covered the highway for about 100 to 150 feet and from 12 to 30 feet deep.

No one was injured and no one was reported missing.

At about 2 p.m., a mud, rock and snowslide occurred near Devils Slide in Weber Canyon where construction is in progress on Interstate 80. There was no radio contact in the area, and Utah Highway Patrolmen could not give the exact extent of the slide.

Blocks Portion of I-80

However, early reports indicated it had blocked a portion of I-80 and was hindering traffic.

H. Ames Harrison, district ranger in Wasatch National Forest, and Ray

gion, with only light snow in the higher mountains of northern Utah.

Temperatures will continue mild with highs in the 40s and low readings in the 30s in the north of the Beehive State.

But those very mild temperatures will continue the danger of more avalanches in the steeper canyons. In Logan Canyon there is no means of shooting down possible slides, as in the ski resort areas.

Merlin E. Bishop, forest supervisor, Cache National Forest, has indicated the danger can even be greater, not perhaps to life, but in the amount of damage caused to summer homes in the canyon.

It was believed the warming temperatures, melting snows and resultant weakening of the canyon walls in Weber Canyon caused the mixture of snow, mud and rocks to tumble onto the highway.

The mostly cloudy skies over northern Utah will keep temperatures mild during the night, allowing an earlier warming Sunday morning.

High and low temperatures at Salt Lake International Airport Saturday were 41 and 30, with readings Sunday expected to be slightly higher.

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