

# **East Fork of Mineral Creek, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah**

*4 helicopter skiers caught, 3 partly buried and injured*

## **Weather Conditions**

By late February, the Wasatch snowpack was only 64 percent of average, with 55 inches of snow on the ground. On February 20, 13 inches of new snow fell. Mountain observers noted there were no heavily loaded slopes due to wind deposition, nor was there any sign of recent natural avalanche activity.

On February 22, skies were clear, the air temperature was 18°F at 1000 hours at 11,000 feet, with northerly winds of 8–15 mph. The avalanche hazard rating from the **Utah** Avalanche Forecast Center was generally low but on north and northeast slopes, the hazard was rated moderate.