

# Beeper Helps Alta Patrol Find Skier Buried by Avalanche

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life." Marshal Eliason said.

Depending upon the circumstances, a person has a 50-50 of surviving if he is buried up to 30 minutes. Longer than that, the chances of surviving drops rapidly, the town marshal said.

The beeper emits a signal that can be picked up by searchers and is a "must" for all cross-country skiers, he added.

The ski patrol and volunteers probed the slide, which broke loose at about the 9,600 foot level of the peak, after witnesses said they thought Mr. Gregory was skiing with a companion.

Marshal Eliason said the avalanche was more than 1,000 feet long and 50 to 75 yards wide. Mr. Gregory was carried most of the way down.

A witness said it started with a rumble and developed into a roar as it swept down the steep slopes.

"At first it sounded like they were blasting an avalanche," Amy Kadleck, 20, 4391 Albright Drive, Holladay, a veteran Alta skier and University of Utah ski instructor.

Miss Kadleck was riding up the Albion Lift when she heard the avalanche start.

"It seemed to be over quickly. When the slide went over a cliff, it looked like a waterfall, and as the snow struck the bottom, it sent up a huge white cloud," Miss Kadleck said.

She added that Mr. Gregory's ski tracks indicated he was traversing the slope and had made a second turn when the avalanche broke loose.

"Things were right today for slides. We had several of them, including another skier-started slide in Toledo Basin [north of the parking lots]. He escaped injury and the slide was far enough up the mountainside that it did not pose a threat," Marshal Eliason said.