

Father Rescues Daughter, Wife After Avalanche

Tons of Snow Poured Through Windows of Home at Sundance

BY ANN SHIELDS

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SUNDANCE — Two members of a family living at Sundance ski resort in Provo Canyon received minor injuries Thursday when tons of snow barreled down the mountainside and slammed into their house.

Utah County sheriff's Sgt. Dave Bennett said that Carla Bailey, 29, and her 4-year-old daughter, Lauren, were caught in an avalanche that poured through the windows of their house shortly before 8 a.m.

The family had just moved to the resort from Hawaii less than two weeks ago, according to Utah County Sheriff David Bateman.

The slide came on the heels of a snowstorm that clobbered northern Utah early Thursday, dropping up to 2 feet in the mountains.

According to Bennett, Matthew Bailey, 39, was shoveling snow from a walkway at the family's house when the snow came roaring down the mountain.

Bailey ran into the kitchen, where his wife, Carla,

had been preparing breakfast. He found her partly buried and pinned against some cabinets. Their daughter, Lauren, was completely buried by snow that in some parts of the kitchen was 5 feet deep.

"I went around where we thought my daughter was and found her foot," Matthew Bailey said. "I called to her and asked her if she could breathe and she said she couldn't breathe, but she responded."

Bailey first dug an air channel for his daughter, then kept digging until she was free.

He squeezed her toes and fingers and asked her if she could feel it.

"She could. I've never been so relieved in my life," Matthew Bailey said.

Once dug out, the girl experienced some respiratory problems as well as cuts and abrasions. Carla Bailey also received cuts and abrasions. Mother and daughter were taken off the mountain by Sno-Cat and transported to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center in Provo, where they were treated and released, said Anton Garrity, a hospital spokesman.

A second child in the house, 2-year-old John, was upstairs when the slide hit but was not hurt.

Matthew Bailey is the new general manager for the resort owned by actor Robert Redford.

A carport where two cars were parked also was

buried by the slide.

The mountains throughout northern Utah received 2 feet of snow, said William Alder, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City.

The front that hit the Utah-Idaho border around midnight spread southward to Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah counties beginning about 4 a.m. Snow totals amounted to 5 inches at Ogden, Layton and elsewhere in Davis County.

Salt Lake City had 5 inches at the airport, but there were lesser amounts elsewhere in the valley and throughout Utah County, Alder said.

Duck Creek Village near Cedar City in southern Utah had 9 inches and Brian Head ski resort, east of Cedar City, had 4 inches. It was raining in St. George and other low-elevation points in southern Utah.

Logan police said motorists there handled the snow well. "When we get really bad storms like this, people slow down and use caution," said police Sgt. Pat Wolcott. Two schoolbuses got stuck and one was an hour late.

Canyon roads closed earlier for avalanche control were reopened Thursday afternoon.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.