

This Time Wind Takes Toll on Skiers

Cold Front Should Drop Temperatures Monday, Bring Snow

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THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Gusting winds, not fear of **avalanches**, discouraged skiers from staying in Utah's canyons Saturday.

Dozens of **avalanches** reported this week did not keep skiers from heading into the mountains Saturday morning, but winds ranging from 35 mph to 90 mph sent them scurrying back down.

"There's not a lot of runs open here. It's too windy," said a Snowbird ski resort ticket seller.

The Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office closed Little Cottonwood

Canyon above Snowbird all day Saturday after **avalanches** Thursday and Friday smashed into **Alta's Peruvian** Lodge, barely missed a UTA bus and buried the highway. And Powder Mountain ski resort, northeast of Ogden, was closed due to blizzard conditions.

Four St. George Boy Scouts were treated for minor injuries and hypothermia early Saturday after they were briefly trapped by an **avalanche** near Three Creeks Reservoir in Beaver County late Friday. One of the boys stayed overnight at Beaver County Hospital.

The four were with 16 Boy Scouts and six Scout leaders hiking to a snow camp from Puffer Lake road when a 150 yard-wide wall of snow broke away about 11 p.m. Fellow Scouts dug the four trapped boys free before Beaver

County Search & Rescue volunteers responded.

Because of deep snow and the threat of another **avalanche**, the rescue took more than four hours. The injured boys were carried out of the Merchant Valley on snowmobiles.

Most northern Utah mountains reported impressive snow totals Saturday: **Alta**, 70 inches; Park City, 70 inches; Ogden, 90 inches; Provo, 73 inches; and Logan, 53 inches. Add new, wet snow on top of the old layers — 3 to 9 inches Friday night — and skiing conditions were treacherous. The new snow triggered several spontaneous slides on milder slopes Friday night.

"There's plenty of snow to have **avalanches**. And these new snowslides are going to be a lot easier to trigger," said Evelyn Lees, with

the U.S. Forest Service's **Avalanche** Forecast Center. "It's going to continue to be quite wild for the next few days."

A weak storm Friday night drizzled the Wasatch Front with rain and sprinkled fresh snow in the mountains from Logan to Provo before winding down Saturday afternoon. Temperatures in the Salt Lake Valley reached 57.

Today the storms are expected to clear out and temperatures could rise to near 50 again. "We're done with this one," said Chris Young, meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

But another cold front will move in early Monday, plunging temperatures into the 30s and perhaps dumping snow in the valleys.

"If we're going to get anything, it will be snow," said Young.