

Avalanche victim's body found

From staff and wire reports

The body of a snowmobiler killed in a Saturday afternoon avalanche has been found in the St. Charles Main Canyon area of Bear Lake County, Idaho.

Douglas "Cory" Weston, 25, was found at 10:15 a.m. Sunday in 6 feet of snow. The St. Charles, Idaho, man had been snowmobiling with a friend when the avalanche occurred about 2:15 p.m. Saturday, said Bear Lake County Chief Deputy Gregg Athay.

About 50 people, including members of the Bear Lake County Search and Rescue and private citizens, searched Saturday and Sunday for Weston. Weston's body was located by dogs provided by American Search Dogs, a volunteer search and rescue organization based in Ogden.

A search and rescue team from Rich County also responded, but the missing snowmobiler was located before it could participate in the search.

It is not known if the snowmobiles set off the avalanche, which was up to 30 feet deep in areas, Athay said. Weston's companion was not hurt and helped lead rescuers to the avalanche.

Athay said the area — just past the northern Utah border — is now ripe with avalanche danger.

“The helicopter pilots that flew in there yesterday said there were slides everywhere,” Athay said.

Athay said little can be done to keep snowmobilers out of the popular area when avalanche danger is high. In fact, as searchers used dogs and snow probes to find Weston's body, large groups of snowmobilers toured the area, he said.