

**COMMENTS**

This family group was seeking powder and an alternative to a ski-area setting, but they lacked backcountry experience and avalanche skills. Therefore, they didn't even consider that there could be avalanche danger beyond the ropes. And when they came to the slope they wanted to ski, they showed more concern with the cornice than the stability of the slope below. Finally, without beacons, probes, and shovels, they were helpless when a member of their group was buried four feet deep.

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**PRATER MOUNTAIN, SOUTHEAST OF ALPINE JUNCTION,  
WYOMING | March 3, 2001**

20010303

Two snowmobilers caught; one partly buried, one buried and killed

**ACCIDENT SUMMARY**

Prater Mountain, 10,078 feet elevation, is located in the Salt River Range, which lies very near the Idaho state line and southeast of Alpine Junction, Wyoming. Very little is known about this avalanche death—for example, the precise location, which may be known as Lee Bowl, is unclear. On March 3, a party of three snowmobilers was riding in the area. Two members of the group were caught in an avalanche. One member was partially buried and was dug out by the third person. The second rider, Jay Almos (39) was buried.

Other riders in the area aided in the search and used tree limbs to probe the area. After about 90 minutes, the searchers found Almos under two to three feet of snow. CPR efforts were administered on the victim without success.

**COMMENTS**

The lack of information available on this accident precludes comment.

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**UPPER CHALK CREEK, EAST OF OAKLEY, UTAH**

20010310

March 10, 2001

Three snowmobilers caught; one partly buried, two buried and killed

**ACCIDENT SUMMARY**

East of Oakley, Utah, the Chalk Creek region of the Uinta Mountains is a popular snowmobile area. Fresh snow had fallen Friday, and on Saturday, March 10, a number of riders were in the area. One group of three included Jason Wade (29), Steven Barlow (29), and Jason Peacock (25), and they were riding in an area known as the Chutes.

Suddenly, the slope broke all around them and avalanched. Peacock tried to outmaneuver the slide on his snowmobile, but was caught, carried downhill, and partly buried. Wade and Barlow disappeared in the avalanche. The father of one of the missing men had been riding further downhill when the avalanche broke and was able to avoid getting caught.

**More than one  
person on a  
slope**

**RESCUE SUMMARY**

No one in the group had beacons or other rescue gear. Peacock was able to get out of the debris and rushed to the aid of his buried friends. Other riders in the area came to help

**No rescue  
equipment**