

Search continues for missing snowboarder

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OGDEN — The Weber County Sheriff's Office continued its search Sunday for a missing snowboarder who was swept up in an avalanche Saturday afternoon.

The 34-year-old Weber County man was presumed dead Saturday night after being caught up in the avalanche. The victim and his 32-year-old friend, also of Weber County, had taken a Snowbasin ski resort tram to the top of the mountain about 3 p.m. and were headed down Taylors Canyon toward Ogden.

The buried snowboarder's friend searched for him for about an hour before hiking to an Ogden home to call police around 4 p.m.

"There was this kid there shaking," said Matt Proudfit, whose home the 32-year-old came to. "He said they'd come over the top of Snowbasin on snowboards. His friend was in the lead, they'd barely started down the hill."

Proudfit said the man told him he had been knocked unconscious after being caught up in the avalanche.

"When he came to, he couldn't find his friend," Proudfit said. "He said he didn't take his avalanche equipment."

The men did not have shovels or avalanche beacons, Weber county Sheriff's Lt. Jeff Malan said.

As Life Flight and Department of Public Safety helicopters hovered above, a Weber county Search and Rescue

team, along with Snowbaskin Ski Patrol and three search dogs, scoured the area until poor weather forced the to stop their search about 8 p.m.

Public safety officials were taking precautions to dislodge snow in other avalanche prone areas so rescue personnel would be safe.

Specially trained search dog teams were also brought in Sunday to search for the victim.

Members of Ogden-area ski patrols say conditions are ripe for avalanches, with a lot of new snow and sunny days.

"If you're going to take that kind of a risk, take an avalanche beacon, an avalanche probe and a shovel," said Dave Damschen with the Powder Mountain Ski Patrol.