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hat liner on the surface of the snow.

All four of these people reported the 17-year-old missing around 3:00 p.m.

Snowbasin Ski Patrol responded immediately. According to the Preliminary Accident Report prepared by the Snowbasin Ski Patrol and the Snowbasin Snow Safety department, "They (Snowbasin Ski Patrol) completed a beacon search and a Recco search of the debris, with no results. They then searched the debris with two avalanche rescue dogs. The dogs alerted on blood-stains several times but did not seem to alert on the victim. The ski patrol formed a probe line and located the victim buried 5-6 feet deep in an upright, sitting position and was extricated around 5:30 p.m. The victim was not wearing an avalanche rescue beacon. The victim appeared to have been killed by traumatic injuries. Life Flight then hoisted him to the base of Snowbasin."

The avalanche descended about 1,500 vertical feet. The debris pile was 10-12 feet deep, and about 600 feet long by 60 feet wide.

The slab that came down the mountain mainly consisted of heavy new snow accumulated from recent storms. This new snow

slid off unstable or weak layers underneath that were made up of "hoar" frost, those powdery white crystals that form during extremely cold weather.

It is a misconception that just because snow levels are lower this year, that avalanche danger is also low. In reality, these types of conditions can create more avalanche danger. Before going out into the backcountry, it is important to check avalanche conditions and become knowledgeable of avalanche prevention and rescue.

To learn more about avalanche safety, and to check the avalanche advisory information visit Utah Avalanche Center's web-site at <www.avalanche.org/~uac/> The complete accident report written up about this incident and other Utah avalanches can also be found at that location.

In addition, Snowbasin Ski Resort has an Avalanche Training Center where any interested persons can practice using their avalanche beacon and probe. It is not necessary to purchase a lift ticket to use the training center.

Snowbasin also provides classes and presentations on avalanche and snow safety. For contact information and class schedules visit Snowbasin's web-site at <www.snowbasin.com>

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Huntsman, a Republican, said he had just signed a resolution from the Legislature opposing Divine Strake when he was notified.

The decision comes about two months after the agency released a new environmental report that confirmed there is radioactive material about a mile from the blast site. The report, however, found any harm would be "extremely unlikely."

Officials on Thursday said their decision to stop Divine Strake was not based on any information suggesting the test would harm workers, the public, or the environment.

The blast would have been the largest in a series of experiments that relied on specific geology at the Nevada Test Site.

Tegnelia said the agency now will try to gather the information without the explosion.

Some lawmakers, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., sympathized with the need for tests to develop defense strategies. But, he said, "there were still many questions left unanswered, including the possible environmental effects."

The loudest critics said the plan revived bitter memories of government "lies" during Cold War-era tests, when officials said there would be no danger.

Thousands of people — called downwinders — who lived near the Nevada Test

Site were exposed to cancer-causing radiation from weapons tests.

Residents feared Divine Strake would spread more radioactive material or lead to further nuclear experiments there.

"If this announcement truly signals the end of Divine Strake, my hope is that DTRA would instead spend time and money on developing a conventional weapon that would actually be useful to our military in destroying deeply buried terrorist targets," said Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah.

Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., said she "could not be happier" that Pentagon officials abandoned "this unnecessary test."

John Wells, a Las Vegas carpenter and regional representative to the Western Shoshone National Council, said the blast would "compound wrongs" for the tribe. The Western Shoshone fought Divine Strake in court and have long grappled with the government over the test site, now contaminated from years of nuclear tests. The tribe said it never relinquished sovereignty to the land.

"It's bad that it's there," Wells said of radioactivity that blast opponents insist remains in the ground.

"Let's leave it alone instead of putting that radioactivity back into the air."

Note: This article is being reprinted courtesy of the Standard-Examiner.