

Date: 04-26-2004

**Submitted
By:** NWAC

Place: near the Mt Baker ski area

State: WA

Country: USA

Fatalities: 1

Activity: SNOWBOARD

Summary: 1 snowboarder caught and killed in small slide

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Here are some details from a person with local experience who helped transport the victim.

The victim was descending on a snowboard an approximately 35 degree or steeper northwest aspect at roughly 4500 feet, between the Mt Baker ski area boundary gate and Table Mountain, in the vicinity of a local landmark called "10 Minute Tree". He was apparently traveling alone but accompanied by 2 dogs. The victim had completed about 2-4 turns in about 150-200 feet below a terrain roll and had likely stopped in a chute above a small 15 foot section of steep rock. Below the rock was a small bergschrund created where the snow had gradually moved away from the rock. Shallow slow moving wet snow likely caught the victim from behind, carried the victim over the steep rock, and mostly buried the victim head first in the small bergschrund with his feet and snowboard exposed. The debris pile was described as about the size of a car and the avalanche was very likely triggered by the victim. From the Sherriff's report on the incident, barking by the two dogs attracted the attention of nearby skiers who found the victim.

Garth Ferber

Avalanche Meteorologist

Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center