3 skiers caught, 2 injured on Woody Ridge near Cooke

Woody Ridge
Cooke City
3/24/2022
Code
HS-ASu-R2-D2.5-O
Elevation
9500
Aspect
W
Latitude
44.99330
Longitude
-109.92500
Notes

On March 24, 2022 a group of six skiers descended the west side of Woody Ridge near an area locally known as KNB's. Approximately a third of the way down the slope the group triggered an avalanche that crossed three gullies, broke 1-3 feet deep, 275 feet wide (measured on GoogleEarth) and ran 700 feet vertical. Five skiers were stopped, watching one descend the slope. Three of the stopped skiers were in a row of dense trees directly above and adjacent to where the slide broke and two were stopped a few feet below the trees. The avalanche caught the skier and two members of the group who were stopped downhill of the trees. One skier was pinned against a tree and the avalanche passed him. The second skier slid into a tree sustaining multiple suspected rib fractures. The third, who was actively skiing, was caught, carried and partially buried with just his arm sticking out of the snow, 500 vertical feet below the avalanche crown. All three captured skiers successfully deployed their airbags.

The three remaining members of the group switched their avalanche transceivers to search and located all three victims, and unburied the partially buried skier within five minutes. All members of the group had formal avalanche training: Avalanche Level 1 and 2 up to a Pro Level 2. All members of the group had avalanche transceivers, shovels, probes and airbags. The group performed field first aid and self-evacuated to Cooke City.

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Number of slides
1
Number caught
3
Number buried
0
Avalanche Type
Hard slab avalanche
Trigger
Skier
Trigger Modifier
u-An unintentional release
R size

2
D size
2.5
Bed Surface
O - Old snow
Problem Type
Persistent Weak Layer
Slab Thickness
24.0 inches
Vertical Fall
700ft
Slab Width
275.00ft
Weak Layer Grain type
Faceted Crystals
Weak Layer grain size
2.00mm
Weak Layer Hardness
F
Slab Layer Grain Type
Decomposing and Fragmented precipitation particles
Slab Layer Hardness
1F
Images
Portion of crown and profile location, Woody Ridge avalanche
Looking down Woody ridge skier triggered path
Woody Ridge Avalanche Crown Profile- 25 Mar 2022
Looking up debris - Republic Creek avalanche
Republic Creek avalanche
Attached Videos
Skier Triggered Avalanche, 3 caught, 2 injured, Cooke City - 25 March 2022
Slab Thickness units
inches
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Single Avalanche
Advisory Year
21-22