

Skier triggered, caught and injured on The Fin

The Fin

Cooke City

1/8/2021

Code

SS-ASu-R2-D2.5-O

Elevation

9700

Aspect

E

Latitude

45.00460

Longitude

-109.95800

Notes

FULL AVALANCHE REPORT: <https://www.mtavalanche.com/accident/21/01/11>

On January 8, 2021 a group of six skiers triggered an avalanche on The Fin on Republic Mountain outside of Cooke City. They were skinning up the slope when they felt the slope [collapse](#) and watched cracks propagate 250' upslope. Three were caught and partially buried. Skier 1 deployed his airbag, was partially buried and able to get himself free. He freed himself from the debris and began a beacon search which led him to see skier 2 who was buried head down with his airway obstructed. He was uncovered by skier 1, not breathing and unconscious. He sustained injuries, but later made it out under his own power. Skier 3 was partially buried higher in the path, sustained serious injuries to his ribs and lungs and was evacuated by helicopter. The avalanche broke 1.5' - 2' deep, 200' wide and ran 700' vertical. The average slope angle was 37 degrees. Slope angle at the crown was 33 degrees on an east [aspect](#) at 9,700' elevation. The avalanche is classified SS-ASu-R2-D2.5-O.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

3

Number buried

1

Avalanche Type

Soft 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

18.0 inches

Vertical Fall

700ft

Slab Width

200.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Faceted Crystals

Weak Layer grain size

2.00mm

Images

[Fin avalanche marked with skiers](#)

[The Fin avalanche snowpit profile](#)

[Skier triggered avalanche incident on Fin](#)

[The Fin_overview](#)

[The Fin_Debris](#)

[The Fin_upper bed surface](#)

[The Fin_crown](#)

[Skier triggered on Fin](#)

Attached Videos

[The Fin avalanche - 9 Jan 21](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[20-21](#)