



## Teton County Sheriff's Office

Matt Carr, Sheriff

The vision of the Teton County Sheriff's Office is to be the foremost leader in excellent public service across the State of Wyoming.  
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March 7, 2019

# Press Release - Snowmobiler Killed in Avalanche

From the Office of the Sheriff, Teton County, Wyoming Sheriff Matt Carr

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Snowmobiler Killed in Avalanche

On March 4, 2019 at approximately 1446 hours, Teton County Sheriff's Office dispatch received a 911 call in relation to a snowmobiler being buried in an avalanche near the Breccia Cliffs area of Togwotee Pass. The buried snowmobiler was one of a party of four from out of state. The remaining members of the party located the buried snowmobiler and began lifesaving measures. A multi-agency response was immediately coordinated involving members of the Teton County Search and Rescue, Teton County Sheriff's Office, Jackson Hole Fire/EMS, and the National Forest Service. The remaining members of the snowmobiling party continued life saving measures until approximately 1557 hours when Teton County Search and Rescue arrived on scene to assist. The buried snowmobiler was pronounced dead a short time after first responders arrival on scene. The deceased snowmobiler was identified as 27 year old Dale Walter Clyde Laedtke of New London, Wisconsin.

The Teton County Sheriff's Office is investigating the circumstances surrounding Laedtke's death. Initial investigation has indicated that the group of snowmobilers had previously completed several runs in the same area of where the avalanche occurred. According to witnesses, Laedtke left the group on the opposite slope of the avalanche and was attempting to "high mark" the previous runs in the area. During this attempt, Laedtke got above the "high marks" and turned across the slope for a short distance when the avalanche started. Laedtke was wearing an avalanche airbag pack and deployed it successfully almost immediately as he also turned his snowmobile downhill and accelerated. Witnesses indicated approximately halfway down the hill Laedtke was thrown and separated from his snowmobile. Witnesses described the avalanche as a large slide that went through numerous rocks and trees.

The remaining members of the snowmobiling party were able to locate Laedtke using beacons and probes within approximately five minutes. Laedtke was buried in approximately three feet of snow and was unresponsive with some apparent minor trauma signs to his facial area. One of the remaining members called 911 and activated their personal locator beacon to assist in the confirmation of their exact location. The remaining members of the party started and continued lifesaving measures until the arrival of first responders to the scene. It was determined Laedtke was wearing appropriate safety gear for snowmobiling including an avalanche airbag pack, beacon, helmet and goggles at the time of the avalanche.

The official cause of death is still under investigation by the Teton County Coroner's Office. The Teton County Sheriff's Office extends their sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

The Teton County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all of the agencies involved in this response and investigation for their assistance.

- Clayton Platt, TCSO Investigations Sergeant