





# AREA BOUNDARIES

## Ski Area / Backcountry

- Ski Area
- Lift ticket
- Assumption of risk
- Liability
- Skiers Responsibility Code
- Avalanche Gates Open or Closed
- Enter Through gates only
- Back Country
- Skiers leave resort boundaries
- At own risk
- Recommended to wear self rescue equipment















**Illegal to break signline**

An aerial photograph of a vast, snow-covered mountain slope. The terrain is marked with numerous tracks and signs of human activity, including what appears to be a ski lift line running across the upper portion of the slope. In the lower right, a cluster of evergreen trees is visible. The overall scene depicts a high-altitude, winter environment. 

**Post Control  
Avalanche  
Release  
in the OPEN  
area**

# December 2008

## Ski Resort in area avalanche accidents

- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Snowbird Ski Resort: Utah USA
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Squaw Valley: California USA
- Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> Jackson Hole: Wyoming USA



# Weather History

- October: Unusually warm and dry weather
- November: 12 and 28<sup>th</sup> Rain and Rime snow events
- Crusts formed widespread throughout the Wasatch range
- November snow total 127" / 323 cm

# December 2008

- December 1 – 13<sup>th</sup> 22” / 56 cm Snow
- December 14<sup>th</sup> we continued with ongoing avalanche control work

# Explosive tests on the slope

- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 105mm Recoilless Rifle shot HE
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Two separate 2 lb hand charges high and low
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2 explosive hand charges: Shot #1 (2lbs) in the starting zone and shot #2 (2lbs) in the lower left flank
- No results from any explosive tests

# December 14th

- Baldy has 5 control routes that cover West Baldy, NW Baldy and the western exposure of the Peruvian ridge
- All 5 Baldy routes were run Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>
- 55 starting zones were tested with explosives or skis with no significant results

# Opening Mt. Baldy

**Access to Mt. Baldy Opened  
at 09:28**

**Est. more than 300 people  
skied the slope before it failed**

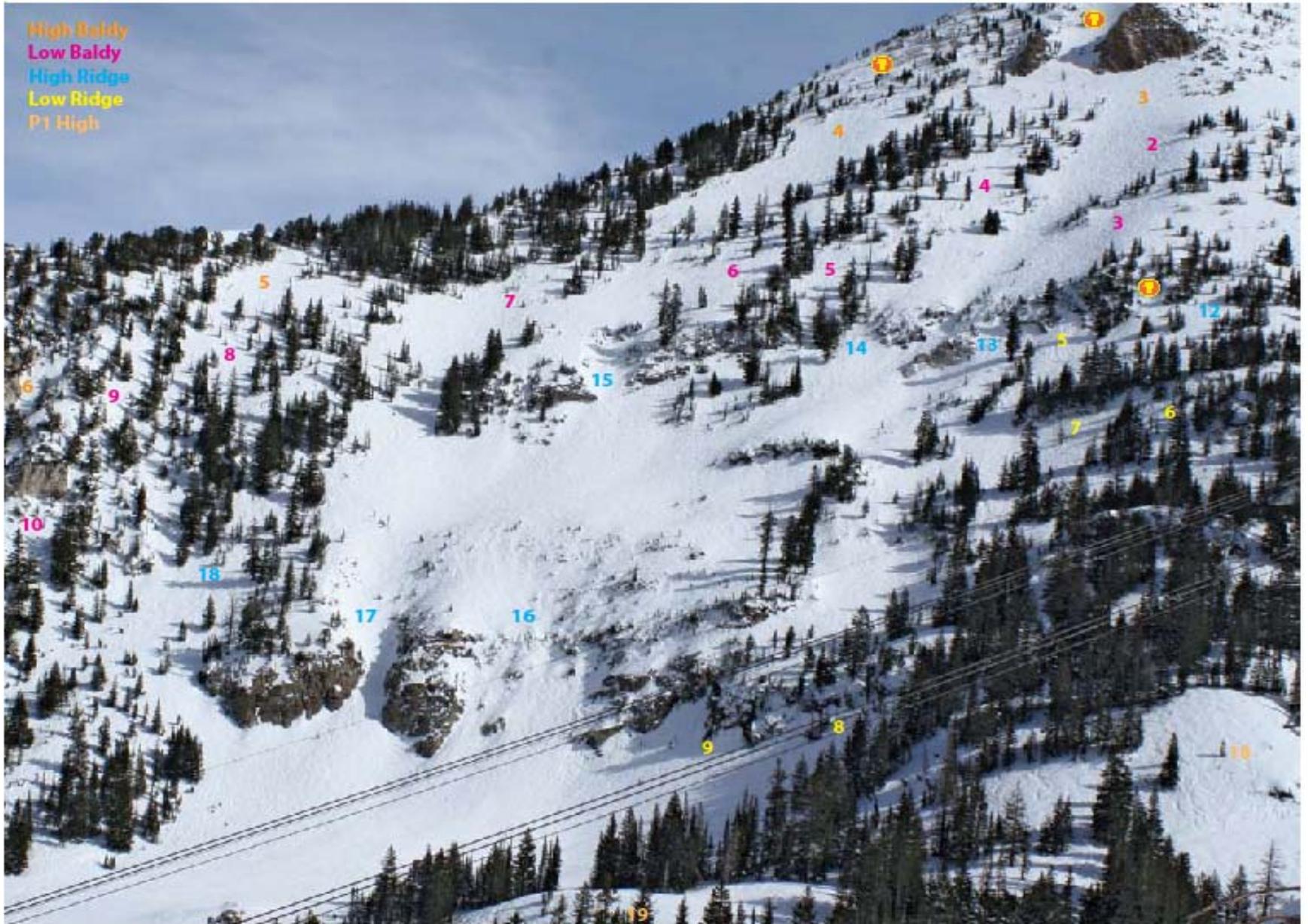
**At 12:28 a call was placed to ski  
patrol dispatch while the slide was  
in motion:**

**Avalanche Reported on NW Baldy**





High Baldy  
Low Baldy  
High Ridge  
Low Ridge  
P1 High





**30 cm deep x 12 meters wide**



A photograph of a steep, snow-covered mountain slope. The snow is white and appears to have been stepped down, creating a series of small terraces. Several evergreen trees are scattered across the slope, some partially covered in snow. The sky is a pale, overcast blue. Overlaid on the lower left portion of the image is text in a bold, black font with a white outline.

**Stepped down**  
**avg. 45 cm**  
**Deepest 1 m x**  
**36 meters**





# AVALANCHE



- 12:24 pm a male rider was crossing the slope on the high traverse
- The avalanche occurred as he was crossing the slope but did not involve him

Witnesses from near the starting zone report to have seen a skier in the middle of the track hiking up to retrieve a ski

Warnings were yelled, but when visibility returned, the slope was empty

The ALARM was sounded

Ski Patrol dispatched a Hasty Search Team  
Immediately: Rescue Dogs, Beacons and RECCO

Probe teams were assembled along with extra probes for public on scene already searching





# Accident Site

- Approximately 150 Public skiers were on site
- Their scattered equipment resulted in the contamination of the deposition
- Dogs had interest in numerous locations but were unable to locate the victim
- Dogs were distracted by public on scene
- The victim, a 27-year-old female was not equipped with a beacon or recco















A wide-angle photograph of a snowy mountain slope. In the foreground, a search party is visible, consisting of several people and their skis. A line of people extends across the middle ground, following the contour of the slope. In the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers the upper part of the mountain. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The overall scene suggests a search operation in a high-altitude, snowy environment.

**Victim found 58 min.  
From report to dispatch**