



AAC Publications

Avalanche

California, Mt. Shasta, Avalanche Gulch

On May 3 at approximately 10:30 a.m., a solo climber ascending Casaval Ridge ventured off route, traversing onto a south-southeast slope approximately 1,000 vertical feet above Olberman's upper moraine in Avalanche Gulch. The climber triggered a wind slab avalanche on a slope that had been loaded earlier from winds out of the northwest. Injuries included a crampon puncture to the leg and an unconfirmed fracture in the lower leg and/or ankle from trauma sustained while tumbling with crampons.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the U.S. Forest Service responded to the incident. Climbing ranger Hayden MacArthur was on patrol on the south side of the mountain, and lead ranger Nick Meyers contacted MacArthur at 10:40 a.m., reporting the injured climber near 11,000 feet in Avalanche Gulch. MacArthur established contact with CHP, and with calm and clear flying conditions, MacArthur was picked up from Bunny Flat and inserted at the patient site.

The patient was found awake, sitting in a semi-upright position, and supported by his pack. Three other climbers and skiers were also present but not affiliated with the individual. The patient was in visible discomfort. A decision was made to evacuate the climber via helicopter to Mercy Medical. The rescue was completed at approximately 1 p.m.

ANALYSIS

This avalanche occurred on the same aspect and elevation as a separate incident six days prior. Mt. Shasta's spring conditions demand caution and preparation. Whether you're a climber, ski mountaineer, or other backcountry traveler, understanding the snowpack is essential for safety. Before heading out, always check the latest conditions. The U.S. Forest Service and the Mt. Shasta Avalanche Center provide updates on weather, snowpack stability, and climbing conditions. Before climbing, visit the Mt. Shasta Visitor Centers for in-person advice and updates. (Source: Mt. Shasta Climbing Rangers.)

Images

Article Details

Author	Mt. Shasta Climbing Rangers
Publication	ANAM
Volume	13
Issue	78
Page	37
Copyright Date	2025
Article Type	Accident reports