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INYO COUNTY, CA



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"A Professional Service Agency"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Search and Rescue

Backcountry tragedy claims two lives

Yesterday afternoon the bodies of two experienced mountaineers, 38-year old Kip Garre, and 41 year-old Allison Kreutzen, were found by friends and the Inyo County Search and Rescue Team; both were from the Tahoe area.

Inyo County Search and Rescue commenced search operations at 8:00 am Thursday morning after being notified that the two-person team had not returned from a climb in the Split Mountain area above Big Pine. According to Search and Rescue Assistant Coordinator, Deputy Tim Winkler, "The victims were discovered in an avalanche debris field, at approximately 11,000 feet elevation with the assistance of avalanche beacons".

Garre and Kreutzen began their hike on Tuesday morning with the intent to climb Split Mountain and ski the Split Couloir. When they didn't return, friends contacted the Inyo County Sheriff's Department late Wednesday afternoon, and rescue efforts commenced the following morning.

Assisting in the search effort were seven friends and associates of the missing party. Also assisting in the recovery was California Highway Patrol helicopter H-40 out of Fresno.

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