

Avalanches close Alpine Meadows for the day

Alpine Meadows ski resort was closed Thursday because of avalanches and the potential danger for more.

Avalanches struck two occupied vehicles on Alpine Meadows Road on the morning of Feb. 18. No one was injured.

Ron Carson with North Tahoe Fire Department said the avalanche pushed the employee bus about 30 feet into a resident's garage on Alpine Meadows Road. Four people were on board. A second avalanche struck a vehicle with one person inside.

"It was considered about one-tenth the size of a normal avalanche for that area," Carson told *Lake Tahoe News*. "The last time there was a major avalanche there was 2011. It occurred in approximately the same area."

The road was reopened about noon after being closed about 7:45am. The bus was towed back to Squaw Valley. The passenger vehicle stayed until it could be dug out.

Carson said the resort itself also had avalanches throughout the day.

Resort officials called the danger level "considerable" after 16 inches of snow fell overnight.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*