

Skier dies after falling into tree well at Heavenly

A Santa Rosa man died skiing at Heavenly Mountain Resort on Wednesday.

The name of the 49-year-old has not been released.

He was on the Poma Trail when he lost control on Dec. 27. Resort officials would not say if the man was wearing a helmet, but first responders said he wasn't.

According to Lake Valley Fire Protection District Fire Chief Tim Alameda, paramedics tried to revive the man, but were unable to do so.

"We had to use a low angle rope rescue to get to him. He was down in a tree well and did not have a helmet. They had to extricate him by using ropes to get to him," Alameda told *Lake Tahoe News*. "You don't know if it would have made difference, but it would have put odds in his favor (if he were wearing a helmet). People need to make the investment and wear a helmet whether it's up there or in the backcountry.

Alameda told *Lake Tahoe News* that at the same time another skier who was going to render aid to the man ended up injuring her foot, which required her to be transported to Barton Memorial Hospital.

"It's been a busy week for us," Alameda said. The district has extra staffing to handle the added people in town.

A guy at Kirkwood Mountain Resort hurt his chest Friday in a serious accident, according to Alameda.

Without fresh snow, injuries are more common at ski resorts because of the hardpack conditions and the obstacles.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*