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Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 21, 2010

RE: CODE RED Avalanche Warnings

At approximately 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, the Mono County Sheriff's Department issued several CODE RED avalanche warnings to specific areas throughout the county. The Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center's website indicated: "The Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center has issued a backcountry avalanche warning for the mountains from June Lake to Bishop Creek. Two to three feet of new snow over the last 36 hours has fallen along with strong southerly winds. Snowfall and strong winds will continue for the next 24 hours. The avalanche danger is HIGH on all slopes. Natural and human triggered avalanches are likely. Avalanche terrain including avalanche runout zones should be avoided."

CODE RED warnings have been issued to the Twin Lakes area out of Bridgeport, along with the June Lake, Long Valley, and Swall Meadows areas. All these areas are prone to avalanche danger as well as certain geological areas within these communities. The CODE RED message states that the avalanche danger is increased due to the recent heavy snowfall and high winds and that residents should be prepared to evacuate if necessary and it is recommended that if residents are displaced they should seek shelter with family and friends.

The Mono County Sheriff's Department will continue to monitor the situation for any changes. For more information, please visit the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center's website at www.esavalanche.org.

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18-years-old) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Ralph Obenberger at (760) 932-7549.

