

FATALGRAM 26-03

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Labor & Safety Standards
Occupational Safety & Health



Date of incident: April 29, 2026

Industry: General Industry

Location: Gannet Glacier, Chugach Mountains

Summary: A heli-skiing guide sustained fatal injuries after being caught in an avalanche while guiding a backcountry ski tour.

Description of Accident: A 32-year-old male heli-skiing guide died from multiple traumatic bodily injuries suffered after being captured and buried in an avalanche. A second guide and client following behind observed the accident. The injured employee was dug out of the avalanche by the second guide. The injured guide was unconscious and not breathing. Due to the remote location of the accident site, the helicopter service used for the ski adventure was used to transport the employee to the hospital. CPR was rendered in-flight. The employee died 3-days later.

The heli-skiing guides are trained professionals in avalanche prevention/forecasting and were fully equipped with emergency locators and lifesaving and rescue equipment at the time of the accident.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Prepare for contingencies in backcountry safety planning
- Provide and maintain training in:
 - avalanche prevention/forecasting
 - avalanche rescue procedures
 - wilderness medical training
- Include lifesaving and rescue gear such as an avalanche transceiver, airbag, probe, shovel, radio, crevasse recovery gear, helmet, goggles, and cold weather gear.