

UNIFIED POLICE DEPARTMENT

Of Greater Salt Lake

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CHIEF OF POLICE



**UNIFIED
POLICE**
GREATER SALT LAKE

Aymee Race
SERGEANT / PIO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2026

Brighton, Utah: Brighton Avalanche- On February 19, 2026, at approximately 12:29 p.m., Unified Police Department received a report of an avalanche near Brighton Ski Resort. Initial information indicated that one individual was involved in the avalanche in the Rock Garden area.

By 12:32 p.m., Unified Police and Unified Fire established a joint command and began coordinating additional emergency resources to respond to the scene. Wasatch Backcountry Rescue, which consists of Brighton and Solitude Ski Patrols, immediately initiated rescue efforts. The family of the victim and over 20 citizens in the area had already begun the initial search and rescue of the victim. Her brother Cameron Eitas heroically used an application to locate her. Numerous agencies responded and worked together in an urgent and coordinated effort to care for the victim in attempts to provide life-saving measures.

Due to safety concerns and flight risks in the area, air medical transport was not feasible. Rescue personnel continued advanced life-saving efforts on scene before transporting the victim by ambulance to a local hospital in critical condition. Unified Police officers also transported the victim's family to the hospital.

Despite the tremendous and exhaustive efforts of family, first responders and hospital medical staff, the victim tragically passed away.

The victim's name is Madelyn Eitas, 11 years old from Rochester, Massachusetts.

Our thoughts are with the victim's family during this incredibly difficult time. The communities here in Utah, as well as the family's home community in Massachusetts, now have the important responsibility of rallying around the family to provide support, compassion, and comfort in the times ahead.

PIO HOTLINE: 385-468-9686