



# Garfield County Coroner's Office

Robert M. Glassmire  
Coroner

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## PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** February 15, 2017

**Subject:** Northeast Garfield County Avalanche Victim Identification

**Associated Press Releases:** Multiple releases from Rio Blanco, Garfield County, and Routt County Sheriff's Offices from 2/14/17.

**Identity of Deceased:** Jesse Christensen, 55, Steamboat Springs, CO resident.

In reference to the February 14, 2017 avalanche fatality in Garfield County Colorado, the victim has been identified as Jesse Christensen, 55 years old, a Steamboat Springs resident. Upon being notified of the fatality, the coroner's office responded to the area of the search and rescue operations in Rio Blanco and Routt Counties. The search and rescue of a surviving party was completed just before nightfall and the recovery of Mr. Christensen had to be suspended until the next day.

Mr. Christensen was recovered from the Flat Tops Wilderness area on February 15, 2017 at about 1:00pm with the assistance of Garfield County Search and Rescue through the paid services of a Classic Air Medical helicopter based in Glenwood Springs, CO. Routt County's Search and Rescue provided valuable information from their rescue the day earlier that assisted Garfield County personnel in quickly locating and recovering Mr. Christensen.

An autopsy is scheduled for later this week. The manner of death is being investigated as accidental. The cause of death will not be released until after the autopsy.

Our condolences to the Christensen family and the Steamboat community. Furthermore the coroner's office is grateful for the professional alliances and assistance that were provided by the Garfield County Sheriff's Office, Garfield County Search and Rescue Inc., Rio Blanco County Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue, Routt County Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue, and Classic Air Medical.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Glassmire  
Garfield County Coroner