

PRESS RELEASE

Date: February 7, 2020

Subject: February 5, 2020 Snowmobiler Death, White River National Forest (Flattops) near Glenwood Springs, CO.

Identity of Deceased: Frank Maseto, 80 year old male, resident of Glenwood Springs, CO.

On February 5, 2020 at 3:36pm, the Garfield County Coroner's Office was dispatched to respond to a snowmobiler death in the Flattops Area of the White River National Forest. The area of the death was approximately nine miles north of Glenwood Springs near Baxter Peak.

Coroner's Office and Law Enforcement investigators learned from a family member that was riding with the decedent, that the snowmobiler did not crash but appeared to have a medical event.

Classic Air Medical of Glenwood Springs launched a helicopter to the area and was unable to land near the patient due to terrain and trees. A flight paramedic was relayed to the patient by family on snowmobiles. The paramedic determined that the patient had died. The helicopter was unable to assist with the recovery of the person due to a incoming snowstorm in the area.

Garfield County Search and Rescue, Inc and the Garfield County Sheriff's Office assisted in getting the coroner's office investigator to the scene and helped bring the decedent out of the forest. The Flattoppers Snowmobile Club of Glenwood Springs also assisted and supplied a snowcat groomer and a driver that helped support first responders.

On February 7, 2020 the Garfield County Coroner's Office contract pathologist performed an autopsy. The autopsy revealed that Mr. Maseto died of natural causes.

No further information will be released.

Robert M. Glassmire
Garfield County Coroner