

Weather better for N. Calif. skier search

by UPI

ALPINE MEADOWS, Calif. - Searchers planned to use a break in the weather to speed up the search for two skiers missing in the snowy backcountry near the California-Nevada border. Patrick Frost and Christopher Gerwig, both of San Francisco, went missing Saturday in Alpine Meadows, Calif., as blowing snow reduced visibility and raised the danger of avalanches. Blustery winds through the weekend limited ground searches and prevented helicopters from flying, The Sacramento Bee said Monday. The California Avalanche Center said Monday that while the storm had blown through, the lighter winds would cause the new-fallen snow to begin settling, which raises the avalanche danger. Placer County, Calif., officials told the San Francisco Chronicle that while attempts to contact Gerwig and Frost on their cell phones had been unsuccessful, the odds the pair were alive remained good provided they had dug a snow cave or found some other type of shelter.

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