

Avalanche pushes house downhill

by UPI

WENATCHEE, Wash. -- An avalanche in Washington State knocked a house off its foundations and pushed it 150 yards downhill, a report said Friday. Gene Ellis, a deputy in the Chelan County sheriff's office, said he was told the house was perched on a steep slope in an area near Lake Wenatchee known as Miracle Mile, the Wenatchee World reported. No injuries had been reported, he said. Lake Wenatchee is in the Cascade Mountains, about 40 miles northwest of Wenatchee. Experts say that the snow pack in the Cascades is more unstable this year than at any time since 1985. "This avalanche up here at Lake Wenatchee is telling us what our avalanche forecasters have been saying: we're in extreme avalanche danger right now," Greg Thayer of the Wenatchee River Ranger District told the newspaper. The Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center in Seattle has recommended skiers and hikers stay out of the back country this week, especially avoiding steep areas.

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