

Utredning av isolyckan i Vålarö

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Summary

Tuesday January 19, two men above 70-years old, went through the ice in the sund between Langö and Risö in Vålarö archipelago north of Nyköping during a long-distance skating tour. This investigation has happened in order to understand why the accident occurred, why the men could not save themselves, how the rescue task went and what can be learned from the accident. The investigation cannot respond to the questions in full, but several important conclusions can be drawn. Below are the investigation's results.

The men started from Svärdsklova and went probably to the south against Broken in order to the end of the trip to come in the sund between Langö and Risö from east in head wind and the sun in the eyes. It is another route and another time than was earlier been assumed, based on united mobile telephone information in the area kl 12.40, according to the police. The suggested route and postponing of the time of the accident is also based on several witness information. The men skated probably near each other and considered not that ice was thinning out. Several reports on Skridskonätet delivers proof that the ice in the sund was difficult to read and that it was difficult to see that the ice was getting thinner while skating. The ice broke under both the men and they ended up in the same vak. Reason for the accident is therefore the combination of unexpectedly coming in difficult to read ice, which was also underfrätt ice, possible with sunlight in the eyes, and to go to close together. When both went through the ice, there was nobody left on the ice.

One of the men had full skate equipment, while the other lacked rucksack and dry clothes, according to information received, and the second man lacked thereby flytkraft. Both men had ropes and had used ice studs in order to try to get out themselves, without succeeding. One telephone had probably switched off before the trip and the other telephone ceased of some reason to function, possibly already at the trip's start. Without some operational telephone, they could not call out about the situation.

We can't go in full detail why the men could not save themselves. Exact information about equipment, ice situation and cause of death can tell more, but this information has not been received more than the ice on the place was broken and the information that equipment was not complete. Information about reason of death is missing. We suggest however a combination of reasons: They had gone too far out on a big area of thin ice, only one man had full equipment, no

operational telephones were ready. It is difficult to come up on the ice with ice studs, special if one must break ice far in to permanent ice.

<all information about police rescue not translated>

The two missing men were found of räddningshelikoptern in a common vak on that place. Both were deceased and were taken with the helicopter's help to Skavsta in order to be taken care about. The weather during the day was reported as sunny until kl. 15, then misty but uppklarnande and moonlights. Kl. 19.00 was the stjärnklart. The wind was easy NV the entire day. Approximately 8 minusgrader.

Despite that the men were not members in a Skridskonet-klubb, it was the case that they had access to tour reporting on Skridskonätet and been inspired to the tour they selected. Two days before the before the accident was some reporting about weak ice in the sund. It will be emphasized that rapportörer cannot be considered responsible for non members' reading. Non-members will not have access to Skridskonätet before seven days' delay. On the other hand, it is not sure that they did the choice of tour and route based on Skridskonet. But the route can also have been based on old tracks on the ice.

In instructions for the discrepancy reporting on Skridskonätet, it is stated that fotplurr is not taken as normal plurr in the statistics. In this case however, there were two fotplurr the day before and the same day of the accident, which was clear warning signals to difficult to see uttunningen in the ice.

Since the men were older, the risk is bigger than at younger persons that someone of them was hit of urgent hjärtproblem in connection with effort and hypotermi as the influenced ability to salvage itself (Brändström and others 2003). We do not know today about the exact cause of death.

Brändström, H. and others (2003). Hypotermi - frigde damages, drunkningstillbud in cold waters. National Board of Health and Welfare. Article noes. 2003-123-6. ISBN 91-7201-747-3.