



Marlin Nelsen

## Snowstorm hampered Doc Nelsen rescue try

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Bozeman, Mont.

A snowstorm and strong winds hampered the people who attempted to rescue Rep. Marlin (Doc) Nelsen of Aitkin, Minn., who died Saturday while on a Montana elk hunting trip.

Nelsen, 44, died of an apparent brain hemorrhage after becoming ill Friday at a hunting camp near the Gallatin Range in southwestern Montana.

A companion, Norman Nelson of Gallatin Gateway, Mont., rode four miles through a snowstorm to the Squaw Creek ranger station. Winds at the time were blowing 40 m.p.h. and the temperature was near 40 below.

Nelsen died shortly after a rescue team reached camp Saturday.

The rescuers rode through the night, fighting frigid temperatures and heavy snow to bring Nelsen back.

"We did everything we could," said Roger Vetter, 39, Bozeman, one of the rescuers.

"The horses were in snow at least to their knees," said Coroner Doris Fisher. "There was lots of downed timber and steep trails on the side of a very treacherous ridge. If you rolled one way you would keep rolling."

The rescuers got to Nelsen about 4 a.m. Saturday. Within a half hour, Nelsen was dead.

Nelsen had hunted in the mountains 24 miles southeast of Bozeman since 1968. He had shot an elk this season and was returning to a camp to bring back the meat when he was stricken.

Fellow Rep. Irv Anderson, DFL-International Falls, Minn., said Nelsen had talked frequently about his hunting in Montana and had toyed with the idea of moving to the area permanently.

Nelsen, a chiropractor, had served two terms in the Minnesota House, but did not run for reelection in 1980.

He is survived by his three children and family in the Aitkin area.