



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

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For Immediate Release	Contact: Sergeant Kent Sisson
Incident #: 17C05798 Glissading Accident	
Asgard Pass – Enchantment Wilderness	Phone: (509)667-6863
Date: 06/04/2017	http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/sheriff

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Sheriff Brian Burnett reports a glissading accident has likely claimed the life of a 19-year old Mercer Island, WA man Saturday afternoon. The incident was initially reported at 5:01pm and occurred below the summit of Asgaard Pass between Colchuck Peak and Dragontail Mountain. A satellite text message had been relayed to the Washington State Department of Emergency Management's duty officer stating there had been an accident in which a male subject had fallen into a hole and disappeared under the snowpack. GPS coordinates were included in the message, but no other information was available.

Chelan County Sheriff's Office search and rescue coordinators began notifying mountain rescue members to respond. A Lifelight medical helicopter was available to assist with an initial check of the coordinates in the Asgaard Pass area. A hoist equipped helicopter was requested from the State. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office "SnoHawk-10" helicopter assisted with the search and rescue effort.

All attempts to locate the subject in the hole, which runs well below the deep snowpack were unsuccessful. Search efforts were suspended due to darkness at approximately 8:30pm. A search will continue on Monday morning. The victim's name is being withheld pending next of kin notification.

The initial report is that the 19-year old was with one other subject as they were both attempting to glissade down the snow field from the summit of Asgaard Pass to the glacier area below. Glissading is the act of intentionally descending down a steep slope in a controlled slide on a person's feet or buttocks. It routinely involves the use of an ice-axe or similar device to assist in controlling the slide. Glissading is a high-risk activity due to the unforeseen dangers (such as holes or crevasses) in the snow path. Inquires reference this medial release can be made to Sergeant Kent Sisson.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

Jason Mathews
Undersheriff
Patrol



Rick Johnson
Chief of

Valerie Karnes
Chief Civil Deputy



Jan Brincat
Executive Assistant