



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801
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For Immediate Release

Contact: Assistant Chief John Wisemore

Incident #:14C05180

Phone: (509) 630-7502

Date: 06/04/14

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us>

****Updated Press Release****

Sheriff Brian Burnett reports a 29 year old female climber was injured in a fall Wednesday while climbing Mount Stuart approximately 12 miles southwest of Leavenworth.

At 3:03pm RIVERCOM dispatch center received a 911 call from the climbing partner of the injured climber; he advised that his partner, Vivian Debros of Bellevue, WA was seriously injured after sliding approximately 800 feet while descending Mount Stuart.

Chelan County Search and Rescue coordinators were advised and given the GPS coordinates received from the subjects 911 call. The GPS coordinates plotted on the southeast side of Mount Stuart at an elevation of approximately 8900ft.

Due to the very steep terrain and 8900ft elevation of the scene a hoist capable helicopter was requested through the State Emergency Management Department. At approximately 5:45pm a hoist capable helicopter from the King County Sheriff's Office was deployed to the scene. When the King County helicopter arrived on scene they were unable to perform the hoist because of very high winds in the area.

A second hoist capable helicopter was requested through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). At 9:46pm a rescue helicopter from Naval Station Whidbey Island was dispatched to the scene but was also forced to abort the rescue due to high winds.

At approximately 0130hrs the Navy rescue helicopter was able to insert a Chelan County Search and Rescue Deputy and a Medic with Cascade Medical Center into the area to make contact with the victim. The rescuers were inserted approximately 2500 feet below the victim.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

John Wisemore
Undersheriff



Jason Mathews
Chief of Special Operations



Valerie Karnes
Chief Civil Deputy



Jan Brincat
Executive Assistant



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At the same time a ground team consisting of members with Chelan County Mountain Rescue and Kittitas County Search and Rescue walked in from the Esmeralda Trailhead.

The rescuers were able to make contact with the victim at approximately 0930hrs. She was in stable condition but had sustained multiple injuries that required she be airlifted from the area.

The high winds had decreased and at 9:45am the Navy rescue helicopter from Whidbey Island was again dispatched to the scene. At 11:28am the victim was hoisted from the scene and transported to Harborview Medical center in Seattle.

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