



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Rich Magnussen

Incident #: 15C01592

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Date: 2/16/15

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

Sheriff Brian Burnett reports that two climbers were injured today while ascending the northeast face of Mount Stuart approximately 12 miles southwest of Leavenworth. Eddie Mcfarland (28 yoa) of Seattle and Eric Strickler (29 yoa) of Bainbridge Island were ascending the northeast face of Mount Stuart when Mcfarlin lost his footing and fell. Both Mcfarlin and Stricklers anchor points came loose and they slid approximately 800-1000 feet down the mountain before coming to rest on a glacier. Mcfarlin suffered a fractured femur and Strickler suffered head and neck injuries.

At approximately 10:00am, RIVERCOM dispatch center received a call from the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC), advising that an emergency beacon had been activated on Mount Stuart. Chelan County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue coordinators responded and were eventually able to make phone contact with the victims. Because of their injuries and location on the mountain a hoist capable helicopter was requested through State Emergency Management. A ground team was also requested and a team from Chelan County Mountain Rescue responded.

A rescue helicopter from the King County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and at 1:50pm the crew successfully hoisted both victims off the mountain. The victims were transported to Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

John Wisemore
Undersheriff

★ **Jason Mathews** ★
Chief of Special Operations

Dave Helvey
Chief of Patrol

★ **Valerie Karnes** ★
Chief Civil Deputy

★ **Jan Br** ★
Executive A