



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: Sergeant Kent Sisson

Incident #: 17c08965

2 Climbers Rescued from Mount Stuart

Phone: (509)667-6863

Date: 08/07/2017

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

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Sheriff Brian Burnett reports two climbers were rescued from Mount Stuart in Chelan County Sunday evening and Monday afternoon. One of the subjects suffered life threatening injuries Sunday when a boulder he was leaning against broke free while ascending the West Ridge route of the mountain at approximately 8,500 feet. Tim Pate (64yoa) of Camas, WA fell nearly 50 feet after the large rock dislodged and he careened over a ledge. Pate was found to be unresponsive when his climbing partner - Jim Schiller (59yoa) - of Happy Valley, Oregon - traversed down the slope to his location. Schiller called 911 at 6:48pm to report the incident and requested a rescue.

Due to Pate's reported unresponsive state on the mountain, Chelan County Sheriff's Office search and rescue coordinators requested a hoist capable helicopter from Naval Air Base Whidbey Island. A Sheriff's Office SAR coordinator was able to communicate directly with Schiller via text messaging. Coordinates were obtained for the incident location on the southwest aspect of the mountain. Pate remained unconscious throughout the rescue response. The Navy Blackhawk helicopter was over the scene by 8:45pm and successfully hoisted Pate into the aircraft which was staffed by a Navy medic. Pate was determined to be in very critical condition and was expedited to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

Schiller was left on the mountain hoping to descend Monday. Sheriff's Office SAR personnel received a phone call from Schiller early Monday morning. He was requesting assistance descending the slope. Schiller advised he was exhausted and felt he was unable to safely make trek by himself.

Initially, SAR coordinators planned to insert Chelan County Mountain Rescue personnel below Schiller's location via the Sheriff's Office helicopter. The team would have had to ascend nearly 1,000 feet to reach him and then make a decision to ascend or descend the mountain with Schiller. At 1:00pm on Monday it was determined that the Whidbey Island Naval flight crew would be available to respond back to Mount Stuart to extract Schiller via hoist. A Sheriff's Office deputy who had already been inserted below Schiller's position would also be hoisted into the aircraft.



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Both subjects were successfully removed from the mountain by 3:00pm and transported to Pangborn Memorial Airport in East Wenatchee. Schiller is in good condition. He stated that Pate was the more experienced climber during their attempt to summit Mount Stuart. Schiller said he was not comfortable descending the mountain by himself after Pate's accident. The two climbers began their ascent of the mountain on Sunday morning after camping near Ingall's Lake on Saturday night.

Pate remains in critical condition at Harborview Medical Center. He suffered head, neck, back, and abdominal injuries from the fall.

Inquiries concerning this media release may be directed to Sergeant Kent Sisson at the Chelan County Sheriff's Office – (509)667-6863.