



Chelan County Sheriff's Office

Brian Burnett, Sheriff

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 667-6851 ★ Fax: (509) 667 6860

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sergeant Kent Sisson

Incident #: 18C06448 Climbing Fatality Mount Stuart

Phone: 509-667-6864

Date: 06/24/2018

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

UPDATE 06/25/2018

The name of the climber who died after a fall near the top of Mount Stuart Sunday morning is Varun Sadavarte 32-years of age from Seattle, WA. The Chelan County Sheriff's Office has had contact with Sadavarte's family.

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Sheriff Brian Burnett reports a climber fell several hundred feet while descending Mount Stuart just before noon Sunday. The 32-year old male Seattle resident was eventually pronounced dead at the scene.

A 911 cellular call to the KITTCOM dispatch center was received from the subject's climbing partner at 11:47am reporting the fall. That call was relayed to the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. The incident location was determined to be on the southeast aspect of Mount Stuart just below the false summit – east of the true summit. Due to the high elevation (8,900 ft), search and rescue coordinators requested a hoist capable helicopter via State Emergency Management. Naval Airbase Whidbey Island accepted the mission and a Navy Blackhawk helicopter crew responded. The aircraft was over the scene by 2:40pm, and it was confirmed that the climber was deceased. The body was hoisted from the scene and transported to SAR staging at the fish hatchery in Leavenworth. The Navy crew returned to the mountain to hoist out the climbing partner of the victim who stated he was not comfortable descending the mountain after witnessing the accident.

The climbing partner informed SAR coordinators that his friend had successfully summited Mount Stuart earlier in the morning and descended to the false summit before noon. Just as they began to descend toward the Cascadian Couloir, the victim lost his footing and slid

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Jason Mathews
Undersheriff



Jason Reinfeld
Chief of Special Operations



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several hundred feet down a steep slope landing in rocks. Other climbers in the area eventually scrambled down to the area of the fallen climber advising he was unresponsive.

The name of the deceased climber is being withheld at this time pending notification to next of kin out of state. Inquiries concerning this media release can be made to Sergeant Kent Sisson at the Chelan County Sheriff's Office. (509)667-6864.

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