



# 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

Incident #: 22C02706

Date: April 1, 2022

Contact: EM Specialist Rich Magnussen

Phone: (509) 667-6508

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

Sheriff Brian Burnett reports a 66-year-old Mukilteo, WA resident – Richard Thurmer- was killed in a climbing accident on Dragontail Peak approximately 15 miles southwest of Leavenworth.

On March 28, 2022 RIVERCOM Dispatch Center received a 911 call from Thurmer's wife (Alma), she advised that her husband was solo climbing in the Enchantments and she was concerned because she hadn't heard from him for 24 hours. Alma advised that he was not due back until Tuesday but he normally contacts her everyday via his InReach device. She said that her husband was well equipped, in good health and a very experienced climber.

A deputy located Thurmer's vehicle parked near the Bridge Creek Campground and a note was left to call the Sheriff's Office when he returns.

On Tuesday evening Alma called RIVERCOM and advised that her husband had not returned home as planned and she still hadn't heard from him. Chelan County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue coordinators were notified and a search was planned for the morning.

On Wednesday morning a Chelan County Sheriff's Office helicopter and a two-person ground team from Chelan County Mountain Rescue (CCMR) responded to the Dragontail Peak area. At approximately 11:15am, the helicopter crew observed a motionless person laying in the snow at the base of the "Triple Couloir" on the north aspect of Dragontail Peak. The helicopter was unable to land due to very high winds in the area and was forced to return to Wenatchee.

The CCMR ground team arrived at the location at approximately 2:30pm and confirmed the victim was Thurmer. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Responders reported that it appeared he had fallen several hundred feet. The high winds prevented the helicopter from returning to the scene on Wednesday.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

**Jason Mathews**  
Undersheriff

★ **Chris Foreman** ★  
Chief of Special Operations

★ **Adam Musgrove** ★  
Chief of Patrol

★ **Kim Oglesbee** ★  
Chief Civil Deputy

★ **Jessica Peterson**  
Executive Assistant



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This morning the Sheriff's Office helicopter returned to the scene and with the assistance of CCMR was able to hoist the victim from the area and transport him to the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery.

Also assisting in the rescue were members of Chelan County Volunteer Search and Rescue.

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Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

**Jason Mathews** ★ **Chris Foreman** ★ **Adam Musgrove** ★ **Kim Oglesbee** ★ **Jessica Peterson**  
Undersheriff Chief of Special Operations Chief of Patrol Chief Civil Deputy Executive Assistant