



# SHERIFF

## CROOK COUNTY

*"Conservators of the Peace"*

"PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE"

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**Contact: Sgt. Jacob Childers**

**Date: 12/08/2019**

**Case No. 191573**

**Event: Accidental Fall**

**Location: Hwy. 27 South-Mile Post 12 / Castle Rock Campground**

## Media Release

On December 8, 2019 at approximately 1259 hours, a Sergeant from the Crook County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to a serious-injury incident involving an accidental fall in the Crooked River Canyon on Hwy. 27 South near mile post 12, across from Castle Rock Campground.

Upon arriving, the Sergeant, accompanied by Crook County Fire Rescue personnel hiked east of the Crooked River Highway up the steep grade to the base of the rim rock, approximately 250 feet above the highway. The extremely steep and rocky terrain was wet/slippery and created significant dangers for responding personnel. The Sergeant and Crook County Fire Rescue personnel located two victims approximately 200 yards north of the campground at the base of the rock.

It was determined that the victims, 40 year old Daniel E. Hibbitts and 41 year old Theresa L. Mick, both of Prineville, had driven from Prineville to the Castle Rock Campground. The two crossed the highway and hiked to the base of the rim rock. They then climbed up the vertical / wet rock and onto a ledge, approximately 30 feet above the ground. While sitting on the ledge, a portion of rock broke loose, causing Daniel to fall 30 feet to the ground. Daniel landed on his back and a 5-10 lb. rock fell on his chest. Theresa then began scrambling down to assist Daniel; however, she slipped and fell approximately 12 feet. Theresa was unable to walk due to her significantly injured ankle; however, she was able to call 911 and request help.

Daniel was determined to have a serious spinal related injury. He was immobilized and placed on a backboard. Theresa was stable; however, she was unable to move on her own. Due to the steep terrain and the dangers associated with moving the injured persons, Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue personnel and Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue personnel were summoned to the scene. After arriving, Deschutes County Search and Rescue teams were able to utilize high angle technical rescue techniques to safely lower the victim's to safety. Daniel was transported by Air-Link helicopter to St. Charles Hospital in Bend. Theresa was transported via Crook County Fire Rescue Ambulance to St. Charles Hospital in Prineville.

The Crook County Sheriff's Office would like remind those seeking to enjoy the many outdoor opportunities offered in Central Oregon to exercise good judgment. The Sheriff's Office recommends that those interested in hiking the scenic Crooked River Canyon stay on established trails and avoid hiking below the rim rock, as rock often falls from above and can seriously injure or kill persons below. The Sheriff's Office also discourages any person from climbing in the Crooked River Canyon.

The Crook County Sheriff's Office sincerely appreciates the response and assistance provided by members of Crook County Fire Rescue, Crook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, and Air-Link.

Sergeant Jacob Childers  
Crook County Sheriff's Office  
541-447-6398

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**