



SHERIFF

CROOK COUNTY

Sheriff John Gautney

"PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE"

**Contact: Michael Ryan, Commander
Special Services Division**

Date: 1/7/2020

Case No. 20-0020

Event: Rescue, Motorist Assist

**Location: Ochoco National Forest, Prineville,
FS Rd 27 near FS Rd 2745**

Media Release

Prineville, OR. The Crook County Sheriff's Office was contacted on Sunday evening at 1744hrs by family members of 60 year old Ted Kennedy and 40 year old Ophelia Kennedy of Prineville. The family advised that they had become stuck in the snow on Forest Service road 27. They further advised that they were attempting to walk out of the forest to the east. No specific location or direction of travel on foot were given by family.

Sergeant Brian Bottoms was the initial assigned deputy responding to the area. Sgt Bottoms activated Search and Rescue at 1900hrs which later responded with 10 personnel and snow machines. A staging area was established at the McKay Saddle on the FS 27 road. At approximately 2000hrs SAR began tracking operations. Sgt Bottoms relayed to SAR that there were footprints heading in an easterly direction on the 27 road. Lead tracking snowmobile operated by SAR Member Mark Grimes determined that the footprints lead to the east approx. 2 miles before they were erased by drifting snow. Snow depth in the area was approximately 18 inches.

Family members again contacted Crook County 911 and stated the Mr Kennedy had called back and reported that they were at the intersection of the 2745 Rd and the 2730 road and heading east. SAR redirected to that area approximately 4 miles away.

SAR Searchers reported finding the tracks at the 2745 Rd and the 2730 Rd but the tracks were heading west rather than east as reported. Members began track in a westerly direction. Approximately 40 minutes later the missing couple walked into the staging area at the McKay Saddle. SAR members assessed the medical status and determined the female was suffering from hypothermia. Both had been walking in tennis shoes. Medics were called and the couple was transported to St Charles Medical Center in Prineville.

Crook County Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue would like to remind people that that while in the Ochoco Mountains at any time of year there is minimum cell service and often requires finding higher ground to get a signal. When you do become trapped or injured, or lost please call 9-1-1. By calling 9-1-1 the dispatchers can contact the cell provider and get a triangulated position of where you are. Often times we have track triangulated signals down to 3 – 5 meters. In the winter be sure to take appropriate clothing and shoes. It is never a good idea to walk away from your vehicle in snowy conditions. If your car has gone off the road try to tie a bright colored item to a tree where you went

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off the road if you are able. Then remain in your vehicle where you will be better protected.
Additional backcountry information can be found here <https://ccsar.org/backcountry.htm> .

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Special Services Division
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