



SHERIFF

C R O O K C O U N T Y

"PEOPLE SERVING PEOPLE"

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News Release

On Wednesday February 3rd at 7:30pm the Crook County Sheriff's Office was contacted by Jay Krider of Active Towing in Prineville and notified of a possible missing person in the Ochoco's. Krider told us that he had received a phone call from a truck driver who made a wrong turn somewhere between Prineville and Ontario Oregon.

The driver of the truck believed he was possibly up the Mill Creek Road but was only using his map for reference. The driver told Krider he was in about a foot of snow and he was hungry after being stuck for the past two days. Krider told us that he drove into the Ochoco Mtns 14 miles and had to turn around after the snow became too deep.

The Sheriff's Office tried to contact the truck driver by cell phone but learned he was out of cell service and had walked to a cell location.

Later that evening we were notified from a friend living in Texas that his friend who was stranded was Efram Almeraz, age 45 of Corsicana Texas.

The following day on February 4th at about 7:30am Efram contacted us by cell phone and told us he was lost somewhere in a foot of snow. After his contact we still were unable to place his location so we pinged his cell phone and received coordinates of the Mckay Creek area.

Crook County Search and Rescue responded to the area and found the trailer parked in the snow unhooked from the tractor. They continued east on USFS Rd 27 and located the driver sitting in the Peterbuilt tractor still stuck in the snow. Mr. Almeraz was in good condition and was able to keep warm by running the truck. Mr. Almeraz was transported back to Prineville where he requested to be dropped off at one of the local diners.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE