

NEWS RELEASE



**Russel E. Burger, Sheriff
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CASE NUMBER: 2008-3620

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 16, 2008 – 6:25 PM

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: May 16, 2008 – 10:30 PM

NATURE OF STORY: Water Rescue X 4

LOCATION: McKenzie River near Blue River

**INVOLVED: Merritt, Matthew, 29 years old – Eugene
Choe, Tommy Hyun Woo, 28 years old – Camas, WA
Gilbertson, Thomas M. 27 years old – Eugene
Cantelon, Brent A. 29 years old - Prescott, AZ**

DETAILS: All four subjects launched their two inflatable rafts at Blue River around 6:00 PM. Approximately 1 mile downstream, they hit a large wave created by a submerged boulder and overturned casting the four into the river. The subjects were able to swim to the south river bank. They were located about 30 minutes later by members of McKenzie Fire and Rescue who were on scene assisting the Sheriff's Search & Rescue and Marine Patrol crews. All subjects were treated and released for minor hypothermia, cuts and scratches.

None of the four were wearing PFD's.

For additional information contact:

John Miller, Search and Rescue Coordinator at 541.682.8544

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