

NEWS RELEASE



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CASE NUMBER: 2009-9648

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 12/28/09 at 8:45PM

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 12/29/09 at 12:00 noon

NATURE OF STORY: Stranded motorists lost using GPS technology

LOCATION: Forest Service Road 2618 near Blue River

DETAILS: Two women, one man, and their dog slid off this remote Forest Service road yesterday afternoon while attempting to drive to Terwilliger Hot Springs. The three, from the Portland metro area, followed the route provided by their cell phone GPS program. While the route would have eventually taken them to the hot springs, it does not take into consideration seasonality and road conditions. They also lost GPS navigation when they lost cell service in the area. The three had no maps or survival gear. They were located at 11:00 PM and assisted by Lane County search and rescue personnel after receiving a 911 call from the three. They had walked nearly 17 miles. They were mildly hypothermic, tired, but in otherwise good condition.

The Sheriff's Office would like to remind travelers to take basic survival kits, including maps with them and not rely totally on technology for route finding. This is especially important when travelling through national forests where going off the highway may lead to unmaintained road systems with few directional signs.

Prepared by: John Miller, Search and Rescue Coordinator. For additional information call (541) 682-8544