
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



CASE NUMBER: 2011-7087

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 09/24/2011 at 1:00PM

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 09/30/2011 at 11:30AM

NATURE OF STORY: **Follow-up - Climbing Fatality**
North Sister - Three Sisters Wilderness

LOCATION: North Sister Mountain

Involved: Jones, Brian C. - 37 year old Eugene resident

DETAILS: Jones, who was reported to have been involved in a climbing accident on 09/24/2011 while climbing with a friend on the North Sister was the focus of recovery efforts by Lane County Search and Rescue on Thursday, 09/29/2011. Command and air search was conducted from the Sheriff's helicopter during the day while two teams, comprised of Eugene Mountain Rescue members searched for Jones from various locations on the ground, including the summit ridge and west-side gully ridges. A number of additional search and rescue members assisted by establishing radio communications and incident management in support of the field teams.

The focus of this search effort being in the area a deceased subject was spotted by a National Guard Black Hawk helicopter the evening of 09/24/2011 after the climbing accident. While search teams were able to locate the deceased they were unable to recover him due to extreme rock fall hazard within the gully. Several "volleys" of rock debris were witnessed coming down the gully during the search. This gully is known as "The Bowling Alley" due to the way all the loose rock from the upper reaches of the peak is funneled into it.

Search and rescue teams plan to return to this area after winter snow and summer melt-off to determine if he had moved down to a location that would be safer to access by recovery teams.

As of this date, no additional attempts will be made this year to recover him.

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