

Two teens injured when snowmobiles collide

by Cheryl McDermott

Two 15-year-old girls, one from Bend and the other from Grants Pass, Oregon, were injured Thursday night when their snowmobiles collided near Elk Lake Resort, deputies reported.

Deschutes County Sheriff's deputies, Bend Fire paramedics, and county Search and Rescue (SAR) members responded to the scene about one mile north of the resort on Trail #5 (Cascade Lakes Highway) around 8:40 p.m., Cpl. Wayne Morgan said in a news release.

One of the girls, a Bend resident, was riding north on the trail in darkness with low visibility due to blowing snow, Morgan said. She came upon two snowmobiles stopped on the trail, one of which was having mechanical problems.

Unable to stop in time, she crashed into the broken-down sled, injuring the other 15-year-old girl from Grants Pass who was trying to get the snow vehicle started, the corporal reported.

Both girls received what Morgan described as non-life threatening injuries.

One of the girls' father transported his daughter to Dutchman Sno-Park via snowmobile, then drove her to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. The second girl was taken to the Sno-Park by the resort's snow cat, and she was also transported to the hospital by private vehicle, said Morgan.

The Bend-area teen was wearing a helmet, the corporal reported. "No citations were issued and no further actions are anticipated," he said.

The services of SAR and paramedics were unnecessary, and they were released from the scene shortly after their arrival.

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