

Lost, stuck snowmobiler rescued

by Cheryl McDermott

A 24-year old Madras man who became separated from his friend as they rode snowmobiles in the Moon Mountain area Friday night suffered minor frostbite before his rescue hours later, authorities reported.

The mother of the missing snowmobiler's friend called 911 about 7:50 p.m., December 21, prompting the response of Deschutes County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (SAR) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) personnel, Sheriff's Cpl. Wayne Morgan said.

Kyle Devine called his friend's mother hours after getting separated from his friend, Travis Olson, 23, shortly before dark. Devine told her he didn't know his exact location, his snowmobile was stuck, and he had been unable to reach her son by cell phone, Morgan wrote in a news release.

About 8:45 p.m. Olson returned to his vehicle at Wanoga Sno-Park, then met SAR and USFS at Dutchman Sno-Park. A cell phone connection made it possible for Devine to provide enough information to determine his likely location, and SAR personnel on snowmobiles and track ATVs (all-terrain vehicles on snow-tracks instead of more common tires) found him near Trail 7 west of Moon Mountain, the corporal said.

Rescuers helped Devine dig out his snowmobile, and he was able to ride to Dutchman Sno-Park. He suffered minor frostbite, Morgan said.

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