

Injured cross-country skier rescued

by Cheryl McDermott

Rescuers used tracked all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles to reach a 63-year old Bend woman who fell and injured her hip Wednesday as she was cross-country skiing with her husband near Swede Ridge Shelter, about 15 miles west of Bend.

Janet Guenther hooked a ski tip and fell about 12:30 p.m., January 16, as she was skiing downhill through some curves, Deschutes County Sheriff's Cpl. Neil Mackey reported. Because of poor cell phone reception, 911-dispatch wasn't advised until about an hour later.

Deputies, U.S. Forest Service personnel, and county Search and Rescue (SAR) members responded to Meissner Sno-Park, the nearest staging area providing access to the shelter where Guenther was located, the corporal said. Rescue units traveled on groomed ski trails via tracked ATVs and snowmobiles, and found the injured woman with several other good Samaritans including a nurse who were assisting her.

Guenther was transported by a towable AMBU-sled to Meissner Sno-Park, and was then transferred to a Bend Fire Department ambulance and taken to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend with reportedly non-life threatening injuries.

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