

Missing Snowmobilers Found, Evacuation Attempts Continue

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The extensive search for the father and son who failed to return from a Sunday snowmobile ride was over when the two were located this afternoon about 3:30 p.m.

According to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Roger and Brian Rouse were located near Bridge Creek drainage, which is approximately 2 miles west of the Tumalo Falls trailhead, and 10 miles west of Bend. The rescue of the two men, one reported alert and conscious and the other unresponsive, continues as evacuation is hampered by terrain and weather conditions.

Search and rescue had located the duo's snowmobiles about 1 p.m. this afternoon, and had been following foot tracks in an effort to find the missing men.

Deputies report that both men were in varying stages of hypothermia when found, and as of 5:45 p.m. Brian Rouse, 29, was alert, conscious, and able to talk to search team members. Brian's father, Roger, 53, was and continues to be unresponsive.

Attempts are being made to locate air resources that can perform an airlift at the scene, but due to the terrain and weather conditions, this may not be possible. Additional ground crews are hiking into the area, focusing on stabilizing both patients and preparing them for probable ground transport out to the nearest road.

Evacuation of the patients is hampered by the steep, thickly treed terrain in the area, along with the snow and weather conditions, said deputies.