

Snowmobiler strikes tree, seriously injured

by Cheryl McDermott

A 52-year old snowmobile rider was seriously injured Sunday afternoon when he was thrown from his sled after striking a downed tree west of Bend, deputies reported.

The 9-1-1 dispatch center received a report of a snowmobile accident near Kiowa Springs about 4 p.m. January 21.

Deputies, Deschutes County search and rescue team members, U.S. Forest Service personnel, and emergency medical technicians from Bend Fire responded to the scene where they located the injured man, identified as Bruce L. Allen of Bend.

Allen was taken by search and rescue personnel on snowmobiles to Century Drive, transferred to a waiting ambulance and transported to Winnoga Sno-Park, then flown by AirLife helicopter to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

The victim was reported in serious condition at the hospital Sunday night. Deputies said Allen suffered a possible hip fracture, fractured ribs, and possible internal injuries.

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