Rescue efforts intensify for Mt. Hood climbers

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Search and rescue personnel are confident they have identified the exact location of three climbers who fell off a 150-foot ledge near Illumination Saddle on Mt. Hood Sunday. Six rescue teams were deployed early this morning in an effort to reach the missing climbers before a strong Pacific storm front moves through the area today and Tuesday.

The missing climbers, two women and a man, reportedly fell over a 150-foot ledge down a steep section of mountain shortly before noon.

Rescue efforts continue Monday for three climbers who reportedly fell off a 150-foot ledge near Illumination Saddle on Mt. Hood Sunday.
Rescue personnel have reported sporadic cell phone contact with the climbers, and are triangulating an emergency MLU beacon signal to pinpoint their location. T-Mobile has also confirmed triangulation data.

According to a news release issued by the Clackamas County Sheriffâ€™s office, at least two of the three climbers have â€œuncomfortable, not life-threateningâ€• head injuries. Last night Portland Mountain Rescue personnel learned the climbers are secured in sleeping bags, wet and cold, but have eaten and anxious for rescue.

The Clackamas County search and rescue team, Portland Mountain Rescue, Oregon National Guard 304 â€œPjâ€™sâ€•, Mountain Wave Radio Communications, the Craig Rats were recently joined by Hood River County Sheriffâ€™s Office, Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Office, Eugene Mountain Rescue, and Douglas

County personnel.

The 30 rescue personnel were deployed early Monday morning in six climbing groups.

Harsh weather conditions with stiff winds, freezing temperatures, and heavy snowfall â€“ with more on the way â€“ are reported. A strong pacific storm is headed into the area, with four to eight-inches of snow possible today, and an additional 12 inches expected tonight. Weather.com predicts 12 more inches of snow may fall Tuesday, with a total accumulation of two-feet possible.

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