

Plane crash victims rescued, flown to Bend

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Oregon Army National Guard crews rescued two victims of a plane crash late this morning from the site of a downed small airplane about ten miles west of Odell Lake. Two unidentified men were hoisted aboard a Blackhawk helicopter and flown to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

About 7 p.m. Sunday evening, March 5, a report was made concerning a possible plane crash near Davis Lake in Klamath County. Oregon State Police (OSP) and US Forest Service personnel responded to the Crescent Lake area until incident commander Sheriff Tim Evinger of Klamath County arrived on scene.

About 8:30 p.m. the Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) launched a helicopter equipped with "FLIR" (forward looking infrared radar), which aids in searches performed in darkness by displaying temperature contrasts.

Signals from the plane's emergency locator system indicated the airplane may instead be west of Odell Lake, and searchers concentrated their efforts in that area.

About 10:30 p.m., Sheriff Evinger reported that the helicopter spotted two people with flashlights near a downed aircraft in Lane County. CARE supplies were air-dropped in the area, and Evinger indicated that rescuers thought the terrain was accessible by snowmobile.

16 search and rescue personnel from Klamath, Deschutes, and Lane counties made a four-hour trek by snowmobile and snowshoes into the area and arrived at the crash site early this morning. Evinger said one of the crash victims may have been injured and required transport on a backboard for medical treatment.

The men are reported to be in stable condition. No other details concerning identities of the survivors, the

type of plane involved in the crash, departure location, or intended point of arrival were available for release, said Evinger.

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