

Elderly Alzheimer's patient found safe near Prineville

by Cheryl McDermott

A 76-year old man reportedly suffering from Alzheimer's disease was located by search and rescue personnel Thursday afternoon about three hours after he was reported missing after he failed to return from a walk to the end of his driveway in a rural neighborhood about ten miles south of Prineville, deputies reported.

The man went missing from Prineville Lake Acres I subdivision about 11 a.m., October 4, Crook County Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Travis Jurgens said. Because of his age, medical condition, existing weather conditions and dropping temperatures, deputies responding to the call received shortly after noon began an immediate search of the area.

A massive search conducted by a dozen volunteers with Crook County Search and Rescue, seven deputies and the sheriff's office canine ensued, and the man was eventually located about four miles southeast of his home in what Jurgens described as an uninhabited area.

The man was "every cold, was so tired that he could no longer walk, but in good health and did not require medical attention," the sergeant said. "With the declining temperatures and the terrain that he was located in, it is very possible that he would not have survived the night." He was returned home safely.

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