

MOUNT SHASTA & CASTLE CRAGS WILDERNESS

Climbing Ranger Report 2017



SEARCH, RESCUE, SELF-RESCUE, FATALITY = 9

GARBAGE PACKED OUT ON FOOT BY RANGERS = 45 gallons

HUMAN WASTE FOUND/REMOVED ON FOOT BY RANGERS (#) = 63 or 189 lbs.

SUMMIT PASSES SOLD = 6,817

2017 CLIMBING & WEATHER SEASON **SUMMARY:**

The 2017 Mount Shasta climbing season was fantastic. A banner winter lead to a long lasting climbing season with snow on the mountain and good climbing conditions into July. Search and Rescue incidents were below average. Unfortunately, we had one fatality this season that was not climbing related. Four climbing rangers managed the Mount Shasta and Castle Crags Wilderness areas. The Helen Lake camp was set up in early May and staffed every weekend throughout the summer season. Regular patrols took place on all routes as access opened up from the heavy winter snow drifts. Notable projects this year include the all new trailhead kiosks that were installed at all major trailheads around the mountain, the new Bunny Flat 3-panel informational kiosk and trailhead features, the ongoing Glacier re-photo project and the annual Helicopter Search & Rescue Training, hosted by the mountain rangers.

Nick Meyers continues as the Lead Ranger and is backed up by longtime seasonal ranger Forrest Coots. Newer to the group are Andrew Kiefer and Paul Moore, both outstanding additions. Regular patrols, trail and trailhead maintenance and thousands of visitor contacts were conducted all spring, summer and fall.



Left to right: Andrew Kiefer, Paul Moore, Nick Meyers and Forrest Coots at the Lake Helen camp



Helen Lake, Memorial Day Weekend. The Ranger camp is located here and is also where most climbers overnight before their summit attempt via the Avalanche Gulch route. This is the busiest route on the mountain. Rangers work tirelessly, educating climbers on leave no trace principles, climbing conditions, hazards, camp etiquette, etc. Unfortunately, no matter how much education is provided, rangers still clean up garbage and human waste from these popular locations.

Common warnings and incident reports issued by Rangers:

Motorized use in Mount Shasta Wilderness: This involves either over snow vehicles (snowmobile/snow cat) and/or ATV use

Dogs in Wilderness: Dogs are not allowed inside the Mount Shasta Wilderness or on Sierra Club Land. Verbal warnings are often given.

Illegal Camping: These incidents are typically limited to people camping too close to springs/creeks inside the Mount Shasta Wilderness, specifically in the Clear Creek spring area just above tree line. Other illegal camping incidents involve camping in day use areas, or inside the Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) area of Panther Meadows. The only camping allowed in the TCP is in the designated sites of Panther Meadows campground.

Sanitation/Litter: Rangers frequently find either climber camps or most often, transient camps outside of the Mount Shasta Wilderness in the Sand Flat/Bunny Flat/Panther Meadows area that are unsanitary with abandoned property and trash. Climber camps found are usually from improperly securing equipment/trash upon leaving for a summit attempt. Animals and wind will spread climber tents and gear far and wide. Rangers also find a lot of “micro-trash” at major base camps on Mount Shasta. Tear offs of wrappers, match sticks, tea bags, tent stakes, food scraps, etc. account for much of the trash hauled off the mountain.

Abandoned camp: Abandoned camps are ongoing and most often found in the dispersed camping areas along the Everitt Memorial Highway, Sand Flat, Bunny Flat and Upper Ski Bowl. The South Fork Flats, Twin Arrows, and Bear Springs areas also host abandoned camp issues.

SMMU District Trash: During slower times, rangers will patrol other areas around the SMMU district aside from the Everitt Memorial corridor and Mount Shasta Wilderness. Trash, waste dumps, shooting ranges, abandoned camps are found every year.

Parking related issues: On occasion we get vehicles parking and obstructing the Everitt Memorial Highway at or near Bunny Flat. It's not uncommon to observe 150+ cars at the Bunny Flat Trailhead on a busy weekend. Our road counter on the Everitt Memorial Highway counted 131,088 cars for the 2017 year with an average of 2.2 people per car. This is a dead end road that terminates in the Old Ski Bowl.

Fire/Campfire in Wilderness: Small campfire rings are found each year and are dismantled. Campfires are not allowed inside the Mount Shasta Wilderness. Fire rings are naturalized and ashes packed out.

Oversize Group: Group size is limited to 10 inside the Mount Shasta Wilderness, as well as in Panther Meadows. This also includes groups of over 75 people outside Wilderness boundaries.

Illegal Commercial Guiding: Commercial guiding on Mount Shasta without a permit is an ongoing occurrence, but one we are gaining ground on. Almost all suspected illegal commercial use lies within the spiritual/new age realm and outside of wilderness boundary, although we have had a few climbing groups suspected of illegal guiding.

Exceeding 30 Day Stay limit: We often run into folks in Mount Shasta who want to spend the summer "living" in the Mount Shasta/McCloud district. Rangers must do their best to keep track of folks and their stay limit on the forest.



Left: Typical abandoned camp in dispersed camping areas on Mount Shasta. **Right:** Standard trash situation after a busy weekend at Bunny Flat.



Ranger Andrew Kiefer descends Mud Creek Canyon on the east side during a Search & Rescue, late July 2017.



Left to right: Paul Moore, Nick Meyers and Forrest Coots pose in front of a newly installed trailhead kiosk at Northgate. These all steel kiosks were installed at Sand Flat, Old Ski Bowl, Clear Creek, Brewer Creek, Northgate and Whitney Falls trailheads. They look great and should last a LONG time. A grant (associated with the summit pass fees generated) and matching funds from local sponsors funded this project. A big thanks to The 5th Season, Berryvale, Shasta Mountain Guides, Sierra Wilderness Seminars, The Sierra Club Foundation and Shasta Base Camp.

Below: A finished trailhead in the Old Ski Bowl! They look great. A big thanks to RockArt Signs & Markers for their fantastic products and service.



"Train like you fight, fight like you train."

Above: Andrew and Paul make a lap in the Old Ski Bowl with the toboggan. In some situations, helicopter rescue is not possible due to wilderness considerations, weather and aircraft availability. This means a ground haul. When there is snow, skiing a patient down the mountain can go smoothly. Without snow, it becomes an arduous task and many more rescuers are necessary.

Below Top: A female hiker with a lower leg injury required a 2.5 mile haul out with the wheeled stokes litter. A dozen people from Siskiyou County SAR, the USFS Climbing Rangers and a USFS engine company assisted with this incident.

Below Bottom: A simulated hoist operation during the annual Search and Rescue Helicopter training.





There are many beautiful waterfalls on Mount Shasta. Some are easier to access than others. Here, Mud Creek Falls plunges over a cliff edge as it carves its way down Mud Creek Canyon.

OUTREACH & PUBLIC EDUCATION:

A staple of the Mount Shasta/Castle Crags Climbing Ranger Program is free public education. The Mount Shasta Climbing Rangers and The Mount Shasta Avalanche Center (MSAC) continue to make a strong efforts to provide many forms of education and awareness here locally and out of the area to both children and adults. The MSAC continued to host four Avalanche Awareness and Companion Rescue clinics this past season, and a snowmobile specific avalanche awareness and companion rescue course. The MSAC also provided similar type presentations/clinics to the US Forest Service snow survey crews, USFS snowmobile course, California Avalanche Workshop, and County Search and Rescue teams. The Mount Shasta Climbing Rangers continued with their highly popular “So, You Want to Climb Mount Shasta?” presentations at various Sacramento, Bay Area, and Medford REI locations. Much of the summer/fall education by rangers continued to be with Siskiyou County school groups. Students will typically embark on a 1.7 mile, ranger lead hike to Horse Camp with wilderness, flora, fauna, geologic and snow based topics discussed. Thanks to Rebeca Franco for organizing and facilitating this year’s field going sessions. Other education/outreach included two “campfire talks” at Castle Crags State Park.



Andrew Kiefer conducts a companion rescue clinic at Bunny Flat

A FEW STATS

2017 Climbing Ranger Outreach totals:

- 25 hours / 400 people

2016/2017 Mt Shasta Avalanche Center Winter Season Outreach totals:

Website/Social Media

- 2016-17 Number of MSAC Avalanche Advisories: 137
- Total Number of Website Users: 28,836
- Total Number of Website Sessions: 74,276
- Average Session Duration: 2 minutes 15 seconds
- Number of Facebook Followers: 3,699
- Number of Instagram Followers: 214

Education

- Number of People Reached: 567
- Number of Avalanche Presentations Delivered: 27

Avalanches 2016-17 Season

- Number of National Avalanche Fatalities: 12
- Number of Fatalities in the MSAC Advisory Area: 0
- Number of people caught in avalanches in the MSAC Advisory Area: 3



A very cool snow cave eroded by Mud Creek



Mt. Shasta & Castle Crags Wilderness SAR Statistics - 2017

Rescue - 3
Search - 3
Self-Rescue - 2
Fatality - 1

(Note that a single incident can populate more than one category)

Rescue

3 rescues used helicopters
 0 rescues used snowmobiles
1 rescues were foot/cell phone/non-motorized evacuations

Search

1 searches used helicopters
1 search used snowmobiles
1 search were by foot/cell phone/non-motorized

Public Assist/Self Rescue

2 incidents resolved themselves

We had 0 incidents in Castle Crags Wilderness.

Month of Incident:

| | <u>Search</u> | <u>Rescue</u> | <u>Self Rescue</u> | <u>Fatality</u> |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| January | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| February | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| March | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| April | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| June | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| July | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| August | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| September | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| October | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|
| November | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| December | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Route (planned):

| | <u>Search</u> | <u>Rescue</u> | <u>Self-Rescue</u> | <u>Fatality</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Avalanche Gulch | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| West Face | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Green Butte/Sargents | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Casaval | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Clear Creek | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hotlum/Wintun | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hotlum | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Hotlum/Bolam | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Bolam | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Whitney | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Shastina | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Cascade Gulch/HV | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Other | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Helicopter used:

| | <u>Search</u> | <u>Rescue</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| CHP H-14/16 | 1 | 3 |
| Cal Fire 202 | 0 | 0 |
| National Guard CH-47 | 1 | 0 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 |

Snowmobile used:

1 search, 0 rescue

Gender:

| | <u>Search</u> | <u>Rescue</u> | <u>Self-Rescue</u> | <u>Fatality</u> |
|--------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Male | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Female | 1 | 2 | 2 | |

Experience Level of Rescued Climber(s):

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Novice | 2 |
| Intermediate | 6 |
| Expert | 0 |
| Unknown | 1 |

Age:

| | <u>Search</u> | <u>Rescue</u> | <u>Self-Rescue</u> | <u>Fatality</u> |
|---------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 15-20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 21-25 | 0 | 0 | 2 | |
| 26-30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 31-35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 36-50 | 3 | 1 | 0 | |
| >50 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Unknown | 0 | 1 | 0 | |

*(One incident can count for more than one category with statistics below.)

Accidents/Searches occurred on:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Ascent | 1 |
| Descent | 4 |
| Rock | 1 |
| Snow | 4 |
| Ice | 0 |
| Camp | 1 |
| Snowmobile | 1 |
| Hiking | 1 |
| Unknown | 1 |

Immediate Cause:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Falling ice/rock | 1 |
| Slip on snow/ice/rock | 2 |
| Glissading | 0 |
| Illness | 0 |
| Exceeded ability | 0 |
| Stranded | 0 |
| Skiing/snowboarding | 2 |
| Improper equipment or use of | |
| Poor judgment | 2 |
| Weather | 0 |
| Not familiar with terrain | 2 |
| Unknown | 0 |
| Avalanche | 0 |
| Snowmobiling | 1 |

Contributory Causes:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Exceeded ability | 1 |
| Weather | 1 |
| Inadequate equipment/clothing | 1 |
| Climbing alone/Party separation | 2 |
| Poor position | 1 |

Improper equipment or use of equip. 1
Fatigue/exhaustion 0

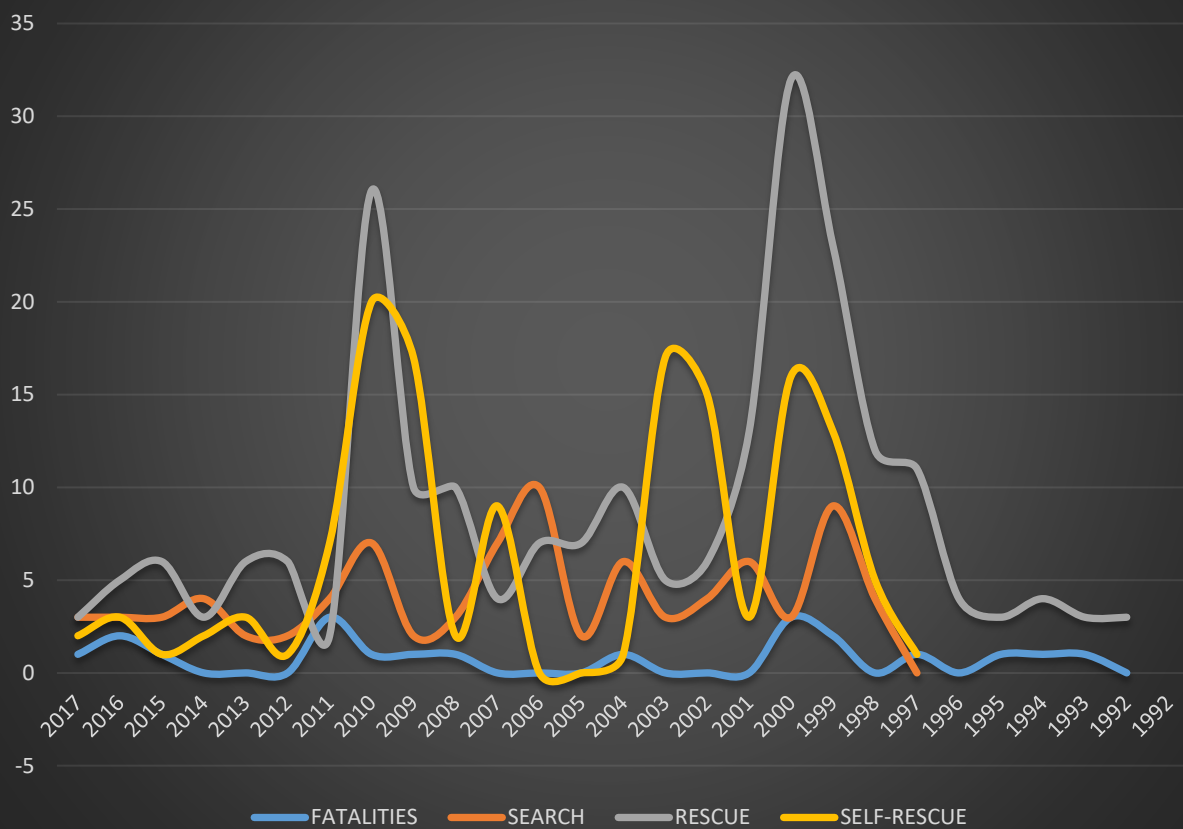
Type of Injury:

Fracture 1
Laceration 0
Abrasion 0
Bruising 0
Sprain/strain/tear 2
Concussion/Head Trauma 1
Hypothermic 0
Frostbite 1
Dislocation 0
Puncture 0
Internal 0
AMS 0
Avulsion 0
Dehydration/exhaustion 3
Death 0
Blister 0
None 0
Other 0



Above: Rangers hunker down at the bottom of Misery Hill after off-loading from the California National Guard Black Hawk helicopter. This mission was part of a search for a female climber on the east side of the mountain in late July.

Mt Shasta Search & Rescue Statistics 1992-2017





Above: Rangers prepare for a hoist operation out of the Old Ski Bowl.



Search, Rescue and Public Assist **Narratives – 2017**

February 26, 2017 – Red Butte/Grey Butte, 2 lost snowmobilers, male, mid 40s:

Shane Garberson and Bud Noyer

Snowmobilers, lost, late in day, approaching storm, inexperience, unfamiliar with terrain.

On February 27th, I (Nick Meyers) received a call from Sisk. Co. SAR coordinator Mike Burns at approximately 1600 hrs. Mike stated he received a 911 call with a report of 2 snowmobilers who were lost and stuck on Mount Shasta.

It was late in the day and a storm was blowing in at the time. The skies were obscured and it was beginning to snow. Temperatures were very cold.

I (Meyers) was able to speak with the reporting parties and he described his location. The cell phone ping location was inaccurate from dispatch. Eventually the two were able to take a screen shot of their pinned location from a smart phone app and text the location pin to Mike. This lined up with their description and where I thought they were. I am very familiar with the terrain. It is an area inside the Mount Shasta Wilderness that snowmobilers like to encroach upon. The area lies to the east/northeast of Red Butte.

Burns and I made a plan to take the FS snowmobiles up to their location and assist the two. Night operations are never a good idea but I had very good knowledge of the area. Otherwise, these two would be spending a night out. Mike briefed the two that we'd be on our way but to dig a snow cave as we could not guarantee our arrival.

Burns and I located the two just before dusk. We assisted in retrieving their stuck snowmobiles and escorted them out... not without a few snowmobiling trials and tribulations. By the time we made it back it was fully dark, snowing and blowing, approximately 2000 hrs. There were no injuries.

The two stated they simply "missed the turn" when returning up and over Gray Butte saddle from the east. With limited visibility and then becoming stuck in a low lying gully, they went belly up and called 911. It was interesting why they could not simply reverse their path, following their tracks back out. Their snowmobiles were not stuck beyond retrieval for two strong men.

May 14, 2017 – Avalanche Gulch, frostbite, female, 24 years old:

Shasta Mountain Guides

A 24 year old female had signs of frostbite on the Avalanche Gulch route.

"We woke at 1:00am and temperatures were about -10F with 6-7" of new snow. Boots were wet from previous 2 days of snow camping and skills practice on the lower mountain. Boots were put on and summit attempt initiated."

"We climbed for about 3 hours and determined there was little to no feeling in both feet. We decided to turn around at 11,200'. It took 2 hours to descend to camp at 10,200'. After caring for another guest, returned to tent to change to dry socks and warm layers. After about 2 hours feeling still had not returned to feet and with assistance from Casey G. gear was packed and we descended down the mountain."

"Medical care determined mild frostbite to toes of both feet. Pain with weight bearing and any contact to skin. Full recovery is expected after a couple months of rest and rehab."

April 24, 2017 – Lost climber, spent the night out in between Horse Camp and Bunny Flat, male, 29 years old:

Early on the morning of April 24th, Ranger Meyers received a call from Sheriff's deputy SAR coordinator Mike Burns. Burns stated a climber was overdue on the Avalanche Gulch route.

The reporting party stated three guys had met on Facebook and decided to climb Mount Shasta together. They were attempting to climb the mountain in one day and began their climb at approximately 0600 on the 23rd. The party made it up to Redbanks and decided to turn around. Everyone made it down to Horse Camp safely that afternoon. The three were making their way from

Horse Camp to Bunny Flat when one member of the party, Carlos, began to fall behind. Others urged him to continue and just follow the tracks. Carlos never showed up that afternoon/night.

Ranger Meyers and Kiefer formulated and agreed with Burns that a hasty search of the Sand Flat area would be a good idea. A winter storm was beginning that morning. Just upon off-loading snowmobiles for the search of Sand Flat, Burns received a call that another party of climbers had come across Carlos and were assisting him out. Carlos was uninjured and assisted out by the separate party of climbers. They arrived at Bunny Flat 15 minutes later.

Carlos spent a cold night out with no additional equipment other than what he had on him. That consisted of a very light camelback pack, a Patagonia lightweight puffy jacket and snow pants. He was very close to both Horse Camp and/or Bunny Flat. If Carlos carried the 10 essentials, this incident could have been prevented. A map and compass and knowledge of how to use them would have got him to the trailhead easily. Extra food/water/clothing could have made for a little less suffering that night as well.

May 29, 2017 – Avalanche Gulch, injured skier, female, 27 years old:

On May 29, 2017, at approximately 0958 hours, I Deputy Mike Burns with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office was called out from my residence for an injured hiker on Mount Shasta.

I contacted the reporting party, Landon Harmon by telephone. Harmon told me his friend Rachel Canetti had fallen while skiing around Lake Helen and twisted her knee and was unable to put pressure on it.

I contacted Andrew Kiefer, the on-call climbing ranger at the time. Ranger Kiefer told me he and ranger Moore were at the Mount Shasta Forest Service office and would meet me at Bunny flat. Due to the time frame of a hike in I requested CHP Air Opps dispatch a helicopter.

A short time later CHP H-16 met with me at Bunny Flat. We determined the injured party had been assisted down to approximately the 8500 foot level above Bunny Flat. SAR member Kinch and H-16 departed Bunny flat and performed a hoist rescue of Canetti whom was transported to Mercy Mount Shasta by H-16.

I drove to Mercy Mount Shasta to speak with Canetti, she told me she and her friends hiked up to Lake Helen on Saturday. She said she and her friends summited Mount Shasta on Sunday and hiked back down to Lake Helen where they spent a second night. Canetti woke up the following day, packed up and began skiing down towards Bunny Flat. Canetti said that while skiing down her ski caught an edge and her body went one way and her ski went the other. Canetti heard a "pop" in her knee. She attempted to stand on her leg and heard an additional "pop" and was unable to put pressure on it. Canetti's friends attempted to lower her down the mountain but were forced to call for help.

July 2, 2017 – Avalanche Gulch, rock fall, injured climber, male, mid 30s:

On July 2, 2017, at approximately 0900 hours, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office was called with a report of an unconscious climber who had fallen in Avalanche Gulch below the Redbanks formation.

Deputy Mike Burns immediately notified USFS Lead Climbing Ranger Nick Meyers, and Burns and Meyers requested CHP Air Ops dispatch a helicopter.

USFS Climbing Ranger Andrew Kiefer was on a routine patrol and camped at Helen Lake at the time of the incident. Meyers and Burns instructed Kiefer to respond, and that CHP would be in the area shortly.

At approximately 1015, CHP was able to locate the injured climber with an initial fly over and confirmed the location via radio with Kiefer. CHP then landed at Bunny Flat to stage for a hoist rescue.

Kiefer arrived on scene at approximately 1030. The injured climber, Ravishankar Rao, had been struck in the back of the head by rockfall and then fallen 100 vertical feet down slope. Two local guides were already on scene assisting Rao when Kiefer arrived. Kiefer performed a patient assessment of Rao and instructed the two local guides to chop a platform on the snow slope where Rao was then stabilized.

At approximately 1050, CHP lowered a backboard and bowman bag to Kiefer. Rao was packaged, and at approximately 1105, CHP was able to complete the hoist rescue and air transport Rao to Mercy Medical Center in Mount Shasta.

July 23, 2017 – Avalanche Gulch, injured skier, female, 22 years old:

10:00 22, F, Skier falls at The Heart in Avalanche Gulch. She states she slid for 100-200 feet.

10:50 A climber notifies me at Lake Helen that a female climber hurt her knee, cannot walk and was screaming in pain.

10:52 I notify the other Climbing Rangers of the incident and gear up to hike to the injured climber.

11:30 I make patient contact with the 22, F climber. She was walking down assisted by an SWS climbing guide. I took over and assessed the patient. She is oriented A+Ox4 and has good circulation and is breathing with a patent airway. She states she hit some icy sun cupped snow and fell and slid 100-200 feet. The patient states her chief complaint is an injured her right knee. She states that her patella dislocated and spontaneously reduced on the fall and slide. This has happened before in her left knee and how she felt she knew it was her patella. She denies any other injuries after a rapid head to toe examination. She states minimal pain in her right knee, full range of motion and slight tightness. Minimal swelling is noticed. I assist patient and we walk to Lake Helen.

12:30 We arrive at Lake Helen without incident where her boyfriend is waiting. They walk out to Bunny Flat together.

July 26, 2017 – Clear Creek Route, lost climber, female, 36 years old:

On July 26, 2017, at approximately 2239 hours, I Deputy Mike Burns was contacted by telephone from Sergeant Crisci. He told me he received a call from a female named Charity Stevens. Sergeant Crisci told me Stevens called 911 stating she was at the 13,000 ft level on Mount Shasta and was in need of assistance.

I contacted Stevens by telephone and she told me she climbed up the Clear Creek trail and attempted to summit Mount Shasta today, but got a late start. Stevens told me she believes she was around 13,000 ft on the mountain and is very cold. I asked Stevens if she was alone and she told me she and her friend Heather Bakner camped along the Clear Creek trail route. She said Bakner chose to return to the camp and not summit. I asked Stevens if she had supplies to stay the night on the mountain. Stevens said she had little water/food and very little clothing. I asked Stevens if she was able to find shelter behind a rock for the evening. Stevens told me she needed help down the mountain. I explained to Stevens how it would take Search and Rescue personnel approximately 8 hours to reach her and due to the fact she was not in immediate need of help, I was not going to risk their lives to respond in the middle of the night. I told her rescue personnel would be on their way first thing in the morning. Stevens did not like my answer and said she might as well hike down on her own. I told Stevens how I did not feel it was the best idea to hike all the way down and would rather her hike to a safe area and spend the night. At this time the telephone connection went dead. I attempted to call Stevens back several times with no luck.

I contacted US Forest Service Climbing Ranger Nick Meyers and advised him of the situation. Knowing Ranger Meyers' knowledge of the mountain, I consulted with him on ideas for the morning. Ranger Meyers told me he and another ranger would hike the Clear Creek route first thing in the morning. I requested dispatch conduct a ping of the cell phone Stevens was using. It showed coordinates of N41.40014 by W-122.187030, which put Stevens in between Red Banks and the Watkins Glacier at approximately 12,500ft.

Ranger Meyers contacted me at approximately 0930 hours. He told me he located Bakner who was extremely shaken up. Ranger Meyers told me Bakner told him Stevens was only wearing a neon green dress, light hiking boots, a small pink wind breaker jacket, and was not prepared to hike the mountain much less spend the night. Ranger Meyers requested I start a full Search and Rescue operation. Ranger Meyers also told me the vehicle associated with Stevens was still parked at the trail head.

I contacted CHP Air Opps and requested a helicopter. I sent out a code red requesting SAR members meet at the Pilgrim Creek snowmobile park at 1200 hours.

SAR personnel responded and began their hike up the mountain. I also had SAR personnel conducting road searches of the road systems within the area. CHP H-14 was able to fly two SAR personnel to the tent which Heather was in.

At approximately 1300 hours, Ranger Meyers told me he had hiked the trail to the approximate last known location of Stevens, unable to locate her.

I initiated a CORSAR call out for additional resources. I learned through CORSAR there were other searches also on going and personnel would be hard to find. I contacted OES Law Duty Officer Troy Clegg. I requested a region call out for type one searches and additional helicopters from the National Guard. I requested helicopters today and be assigned for three days. I requested searches for the

morning of July 28th, 2017. National Guard sent a Blackhawk and a Lakota helicopter to assist in the search. National Guard also sent a live satellite tracking team to assist.

Bakner was transported down from the mountain and provided a ride to motel 6 in Weed where she would stay until we located Stevens.

July 28, 2017. Briefing was set at the Mount Shasta National Guard Armory at 0800 hours. Additional resources including National Guard, Marin County, Contra Costa County, Josephine County, Jackson County, Bay Area Mountain Rescue and Shasta County SAR responded to the Armory.

Teams were broken into categories: mountain rescue, type 2 searchers, road searchers and overhead. National Guard transported the mountain rescue teams along with USFS Climbing Rangers to the 13,000ft level to begin a detailed search. Type two searchers were sent into the treeline areas to search and road teams were canvassing the road systems.

July 28, 2017, at approximately 1945 hours. I was told by dispatch how they received a 911 call from a subject stating he was out with Stevens. I immediately sent a Blackhawk to the area and ground teams. A short time later a National Guard helicopter Spartan 591 advised they located Stevens and were transporting her to the landing zone.

I drove to the landing zone and met Stevens, she had been cleared by an on board medic and declined any further medical attention. I transported Steven back to the Pilgram Creek snowmobile park and requested dispatch have another deputy transport Bakner to the snowmobile park.

While at the command post I asked Stevens to provide me her account of what happened.

Stevens told me July 25, 2017, she and Bakner began their hike on the Clear Creek trail. She told me they arrived at their camping location and set up just below treeline. Stevens told me she wanted to hike the mountain to pray for peace.

July 26, 2017, Steven told me she and Bakner began their summit climb of Mount Shasta at approximately 1100 hours. At approximately 8,700ft, Bakner felt it was not a good idea to summit and said she was going to go back to the tent. Bakner tried to get Stevens to return also but she refused.

Stevens told me she was not prepared to stay the night on the mountain and only planned on doing a day hike to the summit. Stevens told me she made it to 13,000ft but night had fallen and that is when she decided to call for help. Stevens told me she continued to move to stay warm but had to slide a long way on her butt. Stevens told me she made it to around treeline where she slept under a rock until the sun came up.

Stevens told me she wandered around on the mountain on July 27. She told me she saw helicopters and attempted to get their attention with no success. Stevens told me around nightfall she saw what she believed to be a Search and Rescue member with a head lamp on. She told me the subject was off in the distance and she tried to yell at him but he could not hear her. She told me she tried to walk to the subject but he was gone by the time she arrived where she believed she saw the light.

Stevens told me she consumed snow to stay hydrated. Stevens told me she slept under another rock on the night of the 27th to stay warm. Stevens told me she awoke the morning of the 28th and began hiking

around. She told me she located a tent which she stayed outside of until the party returned from their hike. Stevens told me a female by the name of Elaine, unknown last name, returned to the tent.

Stevens told me she explained her situation to Elaine. She told me that Elaine told her she was part of Search and Rescue from Seattle and would assist her. (It should be noted that Elaine stated she was on a SAR team out of Seattle but unbeknownst to Stevens, Elaine was NOT part of, or aware of this search.) Stevens told me Elaine fed her and provided her with hot chocolate. I asked Stevens if she saw the helicopters flying around all day. She told me she did but since she was with someone from Search and Rescue she did not think they were for her. A male subject named Marak arrived at the tent. He was aware of the large scale search for Stevens and called 911.

Stevens was counseled on her actions and how lucky she was. I explained to Stevens the amount of effort which was put into making sure she was brought back safely. Stevens was understanding and made it clear this will not happen again.

September 2, 2017 – Old Ski Bowl/Green Butte, Fatality, male, 35 years old:

On September 2nd, 2017 Rangers assisted Siskiyou County Search & Rescue with the body recovery of deceased Dwayne Hensley (35) of Cocoa, Florida.

The day prior (9-1-17) rangers were notified by Siskiyou SAR of a vehicle in the upper Old Ski Bowl parking lot that had been parked for some time, unattended. An initial hasty search was initiated.

The following day (9-2), a full search was launched. All rangers were on the mountain that day. Aerial recon was requested and CHP arrived early afternoon. A few items were located on the eastern slope of Green Butte. Rangers went to each location. Items were not associated with incident. (old sleeping pad, faded, holes)

Aerial searching continued and at approximately 1500 hours the body was spotted. Hensley lay on the eastern slope of Green Butte, just below cliffs. Rangers climbed to the location, packaged and hoisted the body off the mountain. (41.37122, -122.20522)

Mr. Hensley arrived on 8-22, the day after the eclipse. Hensley did not drink but was into hallucinogenic drugs his mom said. He called his mom on the 22nd and told her, "I'm on a peak... and I'm feeling tipsy!". He was never heard from again. His location was at the bottom of an approximately 80 foot cliff, the eastern escarpment of Green Butte. It's unknown if he was attempting to climb the cliff or fell from the top. Hensley was just out for a hike and not attempting to climb the mountain.

There are a few layers to this incident and it is unknown whether it was a true accident, a drug induced incident or perhaps suicide. Apparently Hensley had an incident from a 3 story building in the past...pretending to be Superman. Mr. Hensley was also reportedly distraught from his twin brother who had mysteriously gone missing a year ago. From Hensley's last cell phone call to his mother, we assume he was on some sort of substance at the time of the incident.

September 7, 2017 – South Gate Meadows, lower leg injury, female, 65 years old:

On September 7, 2017, at approximately 1200 hours, The Siskiyou County Sheriff's office was called with a report of a hiker with a lower leg injury in South Gate Meadows.

Siskiyou County Sheriff's office requested USFS Climber Rangers, 1 USFS Engine Crew, and the Mount Shasta Fire Department to all respond to the scene of the incident while CalFire remain on standby in town.

A multi-agency group of rescuers began walking in to the injured hiker from South Gate Meadows trailhead at 1330 hours with a wheeled stokes litter. At 1430, the initial rescue party arrived on scene to find a 65 year old female patient with a left ankle injury. The patient was unable to bear weight on her left foot and unable to walk out under her own power.

The patient's left leg was splinted, and she was packaged in the wheeled stokes litter. With the help of 15 rescuers, the patient was wheeled out on the trail and arrived at South Gate Meadows trailhead at 1630 hours where an ambulance was waiting to take her to Mercy Medical.

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