

NEWS RELEASE



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CASE NUMBER: 2007-0377

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: January 12, 2007 at 9:35PM

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: January 13, 2007 at 7:30PM

NATURE OF STORY: Overdue Stranded Motorist

LOCATION: South-east of Dorena Reservoir

INVOLVED: Bradford, Travis, 30 years old
Bradford, Katie, 29 years old
81785 Sears Road, Creswell, Oregon

DETAILS:

A search commenced at 9:35 PM on 01/12/2007 when a relative of Travis Bradford reported Bradford and his wife, Katie, overdue. Information provided was that the Bradford's had driven their Ford Ranger pickup and taken their two dogs out for a walk. Their last known location was Dorena Reservoir. The Dorena area was searched by Lane County volunteer 4-wheel drive teams who continued by working south into the mountains as friends advised the two may have gone to the snow.

Lane County volunteers had a possible search area of 400 square miles. Major Forest Service gravel roads were searched throughout the night with negative results.

The search continued into Saturday, January 13 with additional search personnel from Lane and Douglas Counties participating. A spotter plane from Lane County was used

to conduct an air search.

A break came when Travis Bradford and his wife started walking out via the route they had driven at 7:30AM on Saturday, January 13. They left their truck, stuck in the mud, on a secluded spur road and walked 14 miles until they were able to get out on a cell phone and contact a relative. After several more hours of tracking down their exact location, both search and rescue and family members drove to the Bradford's location and transported them home.

Travis Bradford conveyed that, after becoming stuck, they had stayed in their pickup truck during the night. They stayed warm by starting the engine and running the heater every hour until morning. Bradford had been carrying tire chains but they did not fit his vehicle. The two were in good shape, just tired from their 14 mile walk.

Using this case as an opportunity to provide public education; it is advised that, if you are planning on going out to remote areas anytime but especially during winter months, it is important to advise a responsible party of your destination, route of travel, and time of return. If you don't and you become stranded, it will take search and rescue personnel much longer to locate you. It's also advised that you carry extra food, water, clothing, tire chains, shovel, flashlight, and blankets in your vehicle. Always plan for the unexpected.

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For additional information contact:

Deputy John Miller, Search and Rescue Coordinator at 682-8544 or 682-4150

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