

## **NEWS RELEASE**



**Russel E. Burger, Sheriff  
Lane County Sheriff's Office  
125 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 682-4150 / FAX (541) 682-4522  
Email: sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us**

**CASE NUMBER: 2009-2264**

**DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 03/23/2009 at 10:54PM**

**DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 03/24/2009 at 1:00PM**

**NATURE OF STORY: Rescue Operation**

**LOCATION: Fuji Mountain area near Willamette Pass**

**INVOLVED:**

**Watkins, Matthew L. DOB: 10/17/1976  
28245 Gimple Hill Road – Eugene**

**Page, Rebecca Michelle DOB: 08/04/1979  
28245 Gimple Hill Road – Eugene**

**Casteel, Callyann E. DOB: 04/13/1979  
405 Filmore Street – Eugene**

**Ward, Sean Robert DOB: 02/24/1975  
405 Filmore Street – Eugene**

**And three dogs**

**DETAILS: The above four subjects went for a one day snow-shoe trip starting at Salt Creek Falls parking lot. Their destination was to be Fuji Shelter. Fuji shelter is approximately 4 miles north of their parking location on USFS road**

**5894 off highway 58. They stated that they were advised it was a 2 hour hike. They started at 3:00PM on Monday, 3/23. Somewhere between 10:00 and 11:00PM they were totally exhausted and could not locate Fuji Shelter (which is nearly covered in snow). They called 911 and requested assistance as one of the party was becoming hypothermic and they were not prepared to spend the night out without shelter.**

**Lane County Sheriff's Office responded with deputies and volunteer personnel. Also requested was the assistance of Deschutes County who provided snowmobiles. The four subjects were located around 8:00AM on 03/24. Snow mobiles were used to transport the subjects out to the trail head where they were treated by Oakridge medics and released.**

**For additional information contact: John Miller, Search and Rescue Coordinator at (541) 682-8544 or email at [john.miller@co.lane.or.us](mailto:john.miller@co.lane.or.us)**

**Prepared by: Same.**