



SHERIFF

CROOK COUNTY

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Contact: Sergeant Ryan Seaney Date: 11/5/16 Case No. 161381
Event: Injured Hunter Rescue Location: Arrowwood Point, Maury Mountains

Media Release

On 11/5/2016, at around 1145 hours, Crook County law enforcement and medics from Crook County Fire and Rescue were dispatched to the area of Arrowwood Point in the Maury Mountains regarding an injured hunter. The reporting party advised that a hunting partner, Gary Heeter, 69, of Bend, was involved in and ATV rollover crash, and that one of the horns on the elk that he had been packing out impaled Heeter in the back.

This 911 call prompted the callout of Crook County Search and Rescue, a Sheriff's deputy, medics from Crook County Fire and Rescue, and a Life Flight helicopter. The location of the crash, off of the 200 spur road off of the 1670 road in the Maury Mountains, is a very remote location that is distant from emergency responders.

At around 1303 hours a Sheriff's deputy who was searching the area located a member the hunting party near the crash site. The deputy was able to contact the Life Flight helicopter, which was flying overhead, by radio, and was then able confirm that the flight crew had visual contact with the deputy and the general vicinity of the crash location. The flight crew from the Life Flight helicopter had previously been flying over the area looking for the crash scene.

When the deputy arrived at the crash scene he found Heeter was conscious and communicative, but appeared to be going into shock. Prior the deputy's arrival members of Heeter's hunting party had applied bandages and pressure to control the bleeding.

The flight crew of the Life Flight helicopter had trouble locating a suitable landing area due to the rough terrain, which consisted of intermittent forest cover and rocky clearings. The flight crew was able to locate a suitable landing zone before reaching a fuel critical level.

During this time medics from Crook County Fire and Rescue were able to locate the deputy and were taken to the crash scene. The medics had to leave their ambulance approximately 1 1/2 miles behind to reach the crash scene, due to the narrow, rock-covered spur road. CCF&R medics began treatment of Heeter around the time the flight crew from Life Flight was landing the helicopter.

After the medics from the helicopter arrived at the crash scene they were able to assist CCF&R medics with Heeter. Heeter was placed on a back board, and emergency personnel carried him approximately 1/2 mile to the waiting helicopter. Heeter was then flown to St Charles Hospital in Bend.

Investigation of the crash scene, combined with witness statements at the scene, revealed that Heeter had been dragging the elk back to the hunting camp behind an ATV. Heeter began to drive up a steep hillside, which caused the front end of the ATV to come up. Heeter was impaled by the elk horn as the ATV rolled backward.

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