



# Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office

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## News Release

For Immediate Release:

### **SISKIYOU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEWS UPDATE**

**September 4, 2017**

### **“Search and Rescue Operations Finds Body of Possible Missing Adult on Mount Shasta”**

On Friday, September 1, 2017, at about 11:29 a.m., Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) deputies responded to a report of a missing hiker last heard from on August 22, 2017, while reportedly climbing Mt. Shasta. A missing person's case was taken and a search conducted by the SCSO's Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator and United States Forest Service (USFS) personnel. The missing person's report was received from a relative and she confirmed her last communication with the missing man was on August 22, 2017 via one or more text messages. A SCSO Deputy located the missing man's vehicle at Bunny Flat. The vehicle was found unoccupied and secure. A CHP helicopter was requested to conduct an aerial search of the Mt. Shasta area for the missing man, identified as Mr. Dwayne E. Hensley, 35, of Cocoa, Florida. On September 2, 2017, at about 2:52 p.m., the CHP helicopter crew reported finding a possible body in a ravine near the 8,788 feet elevation level of Mt. Shasta. USFS Rescue Climbers were able to recover the body of a male adult located in a ravine matching the description of the missing hiker. The deceased male adult may have fallen from a higher elevation based on the condition of the body and the man had been deceased for a time prior to his recovery.

According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, “This death investigation is still underway. There is no evidence of foul play but a cause and manner of death will not be determined until an autopsy is conducted this week. On behalf of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office, I would like to extend our thoughts and prayers to the victim, his family, friends, and associates in the aftermath of this tragedy. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the diligent efforts of SCSO, USFS, and CHP responders whose efforts led to the successful recovery of the victim in this case without mishap. It should be added that climbing conditions on Mt. Shasta can be unpredictable and hikers should be well equipped, knowledgeable about local conditions, and climbers should not traverse the mountain alone. A wealth of information can be obtained from the local USFS office and the USFS Shasta-Trinity Forest website. Additionally, there are local mountain guides and other experts available for local and out-of-county climbers interested in learning more about outdoor hiking and mountain climbing activities on Mt. Shasta and other sites in the county. A positive identification of the victim in this case should be confirmed within the next two to three days by SCSO investigators. Anyone with any information about the missing person's case is urged to contact the SCSO's 24-hour Dispatch Center at (530) 841-2900.”