

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Conservators of the Peace"

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan



Undersheriff Jim Littlefield

PRESS RELEASE

March 31, 2025

On March 30th, 2025, at about 6:15pm, Umatilla County Search and Rescue, (UMASAR) responded to a call for help after a 54-year-old man reported that his tracked ATV had sheared the lug studs and was immobile, while shed hunting on Blue Kettle Ridge above the Little Johnson Creek, Kamela, OR. The man was accompanied by his 32-year-old nephew. The man's phone was pinged at a location off USFS Road 2136.

UCSO Deputy Travis McMasters contacted the men by phone. They reported that they had water, snacks, proper clothing, and a fire going. They were able to send their coordinates according to their ONYX app, which was near the phone ping coordinates.

The stranded men are enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and they were on CTUIR lands. UMASAR was glad to assist the CTUIR with this mission. Umatilla Tribal Fire Department (UTFD) Chief James Hall also responded, bringing along his own tracked UTV.

UCSO Sergeant Dwight Johnson sent a call out to UMASAR members. Ed Dolan, Chandler Siedler, Dave Rademacher, and Daniel Gardner responded, along with UCSO Reserve Patrol Deputy James Baker.

UMASAR and UTFD launched two tracked UTVs from Old Emigrant Spring Frontage Road and the Railroad Access Road in Kamela. The units traversed approximately 16 miles in varying snow depths up to 4' deep before locating the stranded men. They were located at the phone ping location, at about 12am, on March 31st. Because they were wisely well prepared for the conditions, they were unharmed and in good spirits. We returned them to their vehicle in Kamela at about 2:30am.

Thanks again to our dedicated SAR members and dispatch team! We appreciate their assistance and tenacity to work through the long callout into early morning hours. Also, a big THANK YOU to UTFD Chief James Hall and UTFD EMT Alexis Hughes for their assistance and knowledge of the area.

The Umatilla County Search and Rescue Unit, also known as "UMASAR", is a volunteer unit within the Criminal Division of the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office who respond when people are lost, in need of rescue, or need help in other emergency situations. For more information about UMASAR, please visit our website at, <https://umasarfoundation.org/>

“THIS WE DO, SO OTHERS MAY LIVE”

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