

Re: lost climbers on Mount Hood

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2006-12/msg00378.html>

- *From:* "Newby" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 23 Dec 2006 06:42:26 -0500
-

<kashe@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:stvoo2lblehdaa8lnvd40dges0fvp0sgul@xxxxxxxx>

On Tue, 19 Dec 2006 16:05:29 -0500, "Newby" <nobody@xxxxxxxx>
wrote:

"Seagull" <seagull@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:em9c7s51j5f@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

dold@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Ron Lee <nospamronlee@xxxxxxxx>
wrote:

I never assume cell phone
coverage. Hence the PLB

[snipped]

Climbing mountains is dangerous. People spend hundreds or
thousands
of dollars in acquiring the proper gear to keep them out of
trouble,
yet so many stop short of spending the last \$100 on renting a
locator
that can help them if they /do/ get in trouble. It boggles the
mind.

Cheers,
John

Re: lost climbers on Mount Hood

Relying on a cell phone under the stated conditions was stupid.

According

to a report on the radio today, the climbers were not well equipped for the

climb. Looks like all 3 climbers may have paid the ultimate price. The risk to those doing the searching was not small. Thankfully none of them have been hurt or killed. The cost of this search has got to be

enormous.

The climbers, or their estates, should have to foot the bill.

Actually, the cost is minimal. Nearly all of the searchers are volunteers -- they do it for love, not money. From media reports, they are also much more prudent about the safety of their members than the people they set out to rescue. Have you never heard it said that they often suspend the search to avoid putting the searchers into unreasonable danger?

Some years back, a local hospital terminated their air rescue services. Reviewing their data, they found it was a break-even proposition -- as many lives were lost as were saved. This was usually in circumstances where helicopter pilots judged the weather to hazardous to operate in, but were persuaded to go anyway because, "It's an eighteen month old baby who can only be saved if hospitalized within an hour" or the like. So they guilt the pilot and a couple of medical people to go out and the light crashes somewhere along the way.

Years ago, I was on a Coast Guard training and radar calibration mission which went south off Baja California in a ferocious storm. Somewhere south of the border, a steward came down with appendicitis late in the evening. Some time after midnight, the crew was called out to prepare the fantail for a helo landing. After a couple of hours, we put things back together and went back to our racks -- neither the Coast Guard nor the Navy was willing to come out in that weather to extract the guy. So we turned back into the storm, whose center was still well north of us. The steward was offloaded to a hospital, where he came through OK.

As for the military resources, they're generally chalked up as training exercises, which are valued more highly than routine exercises they'd be doing anyway.

Re: lost climbers on Mount Hood

Candidates for a Darwin award.

OK, so we can now be assured that you will not die in a preventable accident. Yippee.

As stated in several newspaper articles, the cost of operating a Blackhawk helicopter is estimated at \$2,800 per hour; not minimal in my opinion when the cost of a personal locator beacon is about \$600. Of course, there is still the risk to the rescuers. Volunteers shoulder many out of pocket costs that are never reported; I know I do.

If I die in a preventable accident, it will be the fault of improper planning on my part. I will not expect people to risk their lives to to rescue me from an accident that I could have prevented through proper planning. A cell phone could be one of several modes of communication used to contact the 'outside' if things went awry.

Poor planning on the part of the climbers would not constitute an emergency on my part. My family has needs and means too much to me to risk dying for someone else's stupidity. The only disclaimer that I will offer is where children are involved. I will risk, up to a point, my life for the sake of a child.

It is obvious the climbers did not consider their families when they were ill prepare for the climb.

Darwin at work

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