

Bonneville County Sheriff's Office

News Release

03-17-2010

On March 16, 2010 around 7:14 pm The Bonneville County Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue team responded to the scene of a Cessna 172 single engine airplane that made an emergency landing in rural Bonneville County. The airplane, with two persons on board (Kenny Smith and his wife from Bingham County), made an emergency landing on a snowmobile trail near the intersection of Brockman and Dan Creek road in a remote area of Bonneville County.

The incident began when the pilot of the airplane declared an emergency condition to the Idaho Falls airport Control Tower. They stated that their engine had quit and they were going down. The distress call was overheard by the crew of a Civil Air Patrol aircraft that was on a routine training mission. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) aircraft immediately flew to the area and located the downed airplane. The CAP aircrew was able to establish radio contact with the downed plane and determined that the aircraft was intact and both people on the aircraft were OK. The CAP aircrew contacted an Idaho Falls based Emergency Services Officer, who contacted the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office and provided an updated location for the aircraft and additional information regarding the emergency landing. Bonneville County Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue personnel responded and set up a Command Post at the Bone snowmobile parking lot and sent eleven snowmobiles, two ATVs, and one large snow-cat to attempt to reach the scene. The CAP aircraft maintained an orbiting position over

the airplane and relayed information back to SAR personnel until the snowmobiles were able to reach the scene. Search and Rescue personnel brought winter clothing to two individuals and were able to evacuate them back to the Command Post at the Bone snowmobile trailhead. Micro Serve provided assistance with a multi-passenger tracked snow cat that was used to transport the two individuals on the last leg of their trip out of the wilderness.

The incident began at about 7:14 pm and Sheriff's and SAR units reached the airplane at 8:45pm. The two individuals on board the airplane arrived at the Incident Command Post shortly after 10pm.

Three Sheriff's Deputies; twenty-one volunteer Sheriff's Search and Rescue members; and five volunteer Civil Air Patrol members were involved in the incident. The Idaho Division of Aeronautics and the US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center were also involved in supporting the response.

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Bonneville County Sheriff's Office
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