



Mt. Hood Search December, 2006



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Mt. Hood, Oregon

- ✍ 11,249 Ft.
(3,429m)
- ✍ 12 Glaciers
- ✍ 75 miles from the Pacific Ocean
- ✍ Known for its severe weather





The Mission

- ✍ Three experienced climbers, aged 36 to 48
- ✍ Difficult route on the North Face
- ✍ Began climb 7 December
- ✍ Unfamiliar with Mt. Hood and its winter weather, forecast bad
- ✍ Cell phone message received 9 December
- ✍ Search began 10 December



10 December



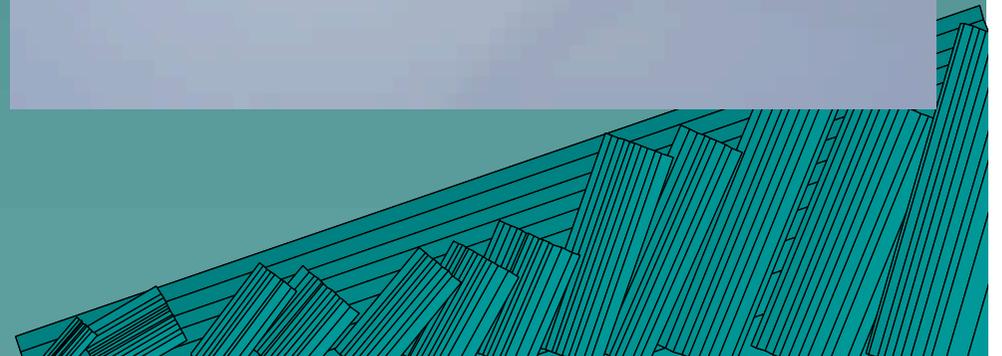
- ✍ Entire mountain is search area
- ✍ Winds at 60 mph+, visibility low
- ✍ Efforts concentrated on north and south faces
- ✍ No Mountain Locater Unit (MLU)
- ✍ Teams driven back by wind
- ✍ Extensive national media coverage





11-15 December

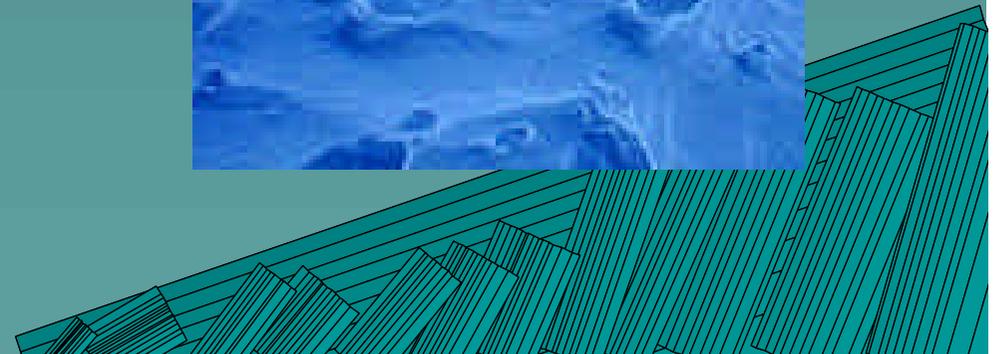
- ✍ Winds on upper mountain to 100 mph (160 kph)
- ✍ No ground search possible at elevations above 7400 ft
- ✍ Search efforts at 7400 ft and below, no trace of missing climbers
- ✍ Twenty organizations, more than 600 searchers, and 10,000+ searcher hours
- ✍ Extensive national media coverage





16 December

- ✍ Improved conditions allowed searchers to reach the upper levels of the mountain
- ✍ No signs of the party below the summit ridge on the expected descent routes
- ✍ Near sunset, helicopter spots tracks leading down the North Face to an anchor and apparent snow cave





17 December



- ✍ Clear skies
- ✍ Helicopter insertion to the summit ridge
- ✍ One climber found, deceased, in the snow cave
- ✍ No additional sign of the remaining two climbers
- ✍ Weather deteriorates
- ✍ Last day of active searching





Mission Summary

- ✍ Extensive national media coverage
- ✍ Temps to -20F, Winds 60-100 mph
- ✍ Aerial digital photos effective
- ✍ 20 Agencies
- ✍ 10,000+ man hours
- ✍ 4 aircraft
 - C-130 Hercules fixed wing
 - CH-47 Chinook helicopter
 - Two H-60 helicopters





The Aftermath

- ✍ Oregon legislature introduces a bill requiring climbers on Mt. Hood to:
 - Carry a two-way communication device
 - Plus, a GPS, a Personal Locater Beacon (PLB), or a Mountain Locater Unit (MLU)
- ✍ Media poll indicates 90% of polled Oregon residents support the bill
- ✍ Bill introduced to enhance “rescuer safety”
- ✍ No enforcement provisions
- ✍ Oregon House of Representatives passes bill in March 2007, bill awaits Senate approval
- ✍ Bill opposed by mountain rescue community, due to mandatory language

Thank You!



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