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# **YAKIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

1822 S 1<sup>st</sup> St, YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98907  
PATROL DIVISION

Telephone (509) 574-2600  
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**Robert Udell, Sheriff**

## **Yakima County Sheriff's Office Press Release**

### ***For Immediate Release***

**DATE: 6/04/2021**

**Contact: Deputy Kyle Cameron  
YCSO SAR Coordinator**

**Incident/Offense: Lost Person**

**Incident #: 21-1982**

**Date Occurred: 6/03/2021    Time Occurred: 0715    Location: Oak Creek FS 1400 Rd**

### **Narrative:**

On 6/03/2021 at approximately 0715 hours, the Yakima County Sheriff's Office received a call from a 65-year-old male that he was lost in the Oak Creek wildlife area and unable to get out of his current location. The man stated that he was diabetic and did not have his medication with him. The man stated that on 6/02/2021 he attempted to drive to Bear Lake in the Oak Creek Wildlife area when he wrecked his vehicle, and it became stuck. The man then followed Oak Creek downstream. It became dark out and the subject fired 3 shots from his .22 caliber rifle, which is a signal for distress. Another person nearby responded with 3 shots and the two responded back and forth to confirm the distress signal. No call was placed to the Yakima County Sheriff's Office at that time. The elderly man stayed out overnight continuing to walk downstream. On 6/03/2021, the man found a spot where his cellphone had some reception and called 911 requesting search and rescue. Yakima County Search and rescue was deployed at this time.

Yakima County Sheriff's Office dispatchers were initially unable to obtain GPS coordinates from a ping of the man's cellphone but continued attempts until coordinates were found. Search and Rescue rallied in the general area of the Ping and Mountain Rescue was sent out. Mountain Rescue members traversed the steep terrain and were able to locate and triage the man. No injuries were reported at this time, so Mountain Rescue assisted the man to a spot for extraction by the ATV team.

While the ATV team was enroute to the location one of the Search and Rescue members wrecked his ATV. The Search and Rescue member suffered multiple broken ribs and both lungs were punctured. Members of the Mountain Rescue, who are experienced medical doctors, as well other members of Search and Rescue were able to provide medical care and safely extract the injured search and rescue member to meet with an ambulance. The Search and Rescue member was later flown to Harbor View Medical Center due to the extent of his injuries.

The initial subject was extracted and taken to his home in Yakima by POV without further incident. The Yakima County Sheriffs Office wishes to inform the public that distress signals should always be taken

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seriously and reported as soon as possible. In this case the subject did not suffer any injuries, but this is not always the outcome.

**Investigating Agency:** Yakima County S.O.

**Prepared By:** Deputy Kyle  
Cameron

**Date:** 6/04/2021