

State Search & Rescue has message for winter travelers: ‘Know before you go’

Winter weather is here, and Oregon Office of Emergency Management State Search Rescue Coordinator Scott Lucas says Oregon is seeing an uptick in lost or stranded travelers on foot and in vehicles.

Lucas says he wants to remind Oregonians and visitors of ways to stay safe. In addition, the search and rescue community in Oregon stands ready to respond when needed, but that being safe and prepared should always be the priority. That means having food, water, maps and other items needed for comfort and safety in the event you get lost or stranded.

Also, knowing your route and weather conditions before you go is important, said Lucas. “Technology should not replace sound planning when using GPS in your car, or for an adventure on foot like going out into the woods with your family this holiday



COURTESY PHOTO

A vehicle was stranded and the driver needed to be rescued after GPS led the driver astray on a dangerous route in Linn County in 2020.

season to look for a tree,” Emergency Management says Lucas. “Careless Search and Rescue program supports a broad spectrum of search and rescue operations in Oregon.

That mission includes coordinating activities of state and federal agencies involved in search and rescue, liaising with the Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association and other organizations, and providing on-scene search and rescue coordination when requested.

The Oregon Office of

Edwina from 1B

birthday, and she never wandered out of the yard again.

Note: Four years later, Henry became bedridden and through his

illness the two of them curled up together in the covers wrapped in love. “His” cat, Lady Edwina, never left his bedside.

TIPS:

- Blinking bicycle lights are paw-fect for

safely walking in the dark. Hook the “light” weight device on your pet’s collar and your coat’s zipper.

- Pandemic restrictions have made finding stories as a paw-purr-ot-zee and “rover” reporter

difficult. Email your stories: angelscribe@msn.com

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HO-HO-HO, Did You Know?

Christmas Fun Facts

\$730.2 BILLION
2019 holiday spending in the U.S.

90% of Americans say they celebrate Christmas

46% of Americans say they celebrate Christmas primarily as a religious holiday

50
U.S. states grow Christmas trees

100 feet
The size of the tallest tree displayed at Rockefeller Center in 1999

40 Million
live Christmas trees are sold in North America each year

34 Million
poinsettias are sold annually in the U.S., making it the country’s highest-selling potted plant

30%
of Americans will still be shopping on Christmas Eve

How do you say Santa?

The name Santa Claus evolved from Sinterklaas, a shortened form of Saint Nicholas in Dutch. Saint Nicholas was a Christian bishop in ancient Greece (modern-day Turkey) known for his generosity and dedication to helping young children and the needy.

Papá Noel - Spain
Mikulás - Hungary
Weihnachtsmann - Germany
Julemanden- Denmark
Père Noël - France

Sources: History.com, National Christmas Tree Association, National Retail Federation, CreditCards.com, ING, Pew Research Center, 2013 USDA Floriculture Statistics

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