



# Chelan County Sheriff's Office

**Brian Burnett, Sheriff**

Law and Justice Bldg ★ 401 Washington Street #1 ★ Wenatchee, WA 98801  
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For Immediate Release

Contact: Deputy Rich Magnussen

Incident #: 15C06337 **Injured Climber Rescued**

Colchuck Lake Area – Chelan County

Phone: 509-667-6863

Date: 06/14/2015

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us>

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The Chelan County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an injured climber above Colchuck Lake in the west county Sunday evening. The State Emergency Management Division initially received a SPOT locator beacon activation at 9:00pm. A text message received from the beacon advised other hikers had come across a male climber who had fallen and suffered a head and leg injury. Additional reports were that the male subject was near the "Colchuck Balanced Rock" climbing area well above the north side of Colchuck Lake. Coordinates plotted to the 7,300 ft level and hikers in the area could not reach his location.

Search and rescue coordinators immediately requested a hoist capable helicopter to attempt to rescue the subject. At the same time, a ground rescue team was organized to include Sheriff's Office volunteers and Chelan County Mountain Rescue members. That team had over a three hour response to Colchuck Lake.

At approximately 1:00am, a rescue helicopter from Naval Air Base Whidbey Island successfully hoisted James Adkins (41 years of age) from the mountain. Adkins was flown directly to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle for treatment. He suffered a serious head injury and leg injury in the fall. Adkins may have also broken ribs and suffered a collapsed lung. He is in serious condition at Harborview. Adkins hometown has not yet been confirmed. It is not yet known what caused Adkins to fall.

Inquiries concerning this media release can be directed to Rich Magnussen at the Chelan County Sheriff's Office – (509)667-6863.

Integrity ★ Teamwork ★ Excellence

**John Wisemore**  
Undersheriff



**Jason Mathews**  
Chief of Special Operations



**Valerie Karnes**  
Chief Civil Deputy



**Jan Brincat**  
Executive Assistant