

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"Conservators of the Peace"

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan



Undersheriff Jim Littlefield

PRESS RELEASE

May 4, 2026

Umatilla County – OR

Contact: Sterrin Ward, PIO 541-310-0369

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS UNDERWAY FOR MISSING MUSHROOM HUNTER

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office (UCSO) is currently leading a multi-agency Search and Rescue (SAR) operation for a missing 69-year-old male, identified as Mickey Dean Cearns of Stanfield, Oregon.

Mr. Cearns was reported missing by his family on Sunday, May 3rd, at approximately 2:20 PM during a family mushroom hunting trip. He was last seen in the area just north of the Mt. Emily Snow Park, off National Forest Road 3102. Umatilla County Regional Dispatch center received the initial call from a concerned family member and Umatilla County Search and Rescue Team was activated.

Missing Person Description: Mickey Dean Cearns
6'0", 220 lbs., bald
Last seen wearing a white t-shirt, multi-colored (tie-dye style) shorts, red walking shoes

Umatilla County SAR team members mobilized immediately yesterday afternoon, conducting ground searches and deploying several drone flights to survey the area. A K-9 search and rescue team was also deployed. SAR teams from Baker County, Grant County and Union County also responded to assist.

"The terrain is especially challenging due to dense vegetation and some steep areas", according to Sgt Rowen Hayes, Umatilla County Search and Rescue coordinator. As the search entered its second day, this morning, Life Flight provided air support and an aerial vantage point of the search area.

To ensure a continued search effort, an Incident Management Team and searchers from Wallowa County SAR have been called in to assume command later today. They will also bring in another K-9 Search Team. This will allow Umatilla County SAR and assisting SAR teams to refresh and prepare for continued operations tomorrow.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office would like to extend its sincere gratitude to our partner agencies for their rapid response and continued support including:

Baker County Search and Rescue
Union County Search and Rescue
Grant County Search and Rescue
Wallowa County Search and Rescue
Life Flight Network
National Forest Service Law Enforcement

We ask that members of the public avoid the search area on NF-3102 to ensure that air assets and tracking teams can operate without interference. Our thoughts are with the family members of Mr. Cearns as we make every effort to bring their loved one home.

####