

For Immediate Release, October 29, 2009
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Search Continues for Missing Hiker

An interagency search and rescue effort continued today for Kenneth "Wade" Brunette.

The search for Mr. Brunette began on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 after he failed to return from a day trip to the summit of 14, 494 foot Mt Whitney, the highest peak in the contiguous United States.

Initial search efforts were hampered by extremely windy, cold conditions and blowing snow. Search and rescue personnel from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Inyo County Search and Rescue, China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, Mono County Search and Rescue, and Kern County Search and Rescue, as well as helicopters from the National Park Service and the California Highway Patrol are involved in the search. Search efforts will continue today as weather permits.

Mr. Brunette is a 73-year old male solo hiker with no past medical conditions. He was last seen wearing a royal blue jacket and tan pants.

Anyone who was in the backcountry area around Whitney Portal, the Mt. Whitney summit, or the areas in Sequoia National Park around Crabtree Meadow or Mt. Russell are asked to contact investigators **whether or not** they saw someone matching Mr. Brunette's description.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks: 559/565-3195
Inyo County Sheriff's Department: 760/878-0383

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