## 7 missing snowboarders found alive

Wednesday, 06 February 2008

Seven snowboarders who had been missing in the mountains near a ski resort in Akiotacho, Hiroshima Prefecture, since Sunday, were rescued near National Highway Route 488 in Masuda, Shimane Prefecture, at 9:35 a.m. on Tuesday, the Akiotacho municipal government's disaster countermeasures office said.

Â

The snowboarders descended from the mountain, accompanied by members of the Ground Self-Defense Force, and were carried by helicopters to three hospitals in Hiroshima.

The seven are Takahiko Aoki, 34, self-employed, and Yasuo Matsubara, 34, a carpenter, both of Shunan, Yamaguchi Prefecture; Shigenori Hattori, 40, a carpenter of Hiraocho, Yamaguchi Prefecture; Akihiko Sugiyama, 36, self-employed of Nishi Ward, Hiroshima; Nobuyuki Nakamura, 30, a company employee of Higashi Ward, Hiroshima; Muneaki Kaneto, 33, and Shinichi Hatahashi, 31, both of whom are part-time workers at the Osorakan Ski Field resort.

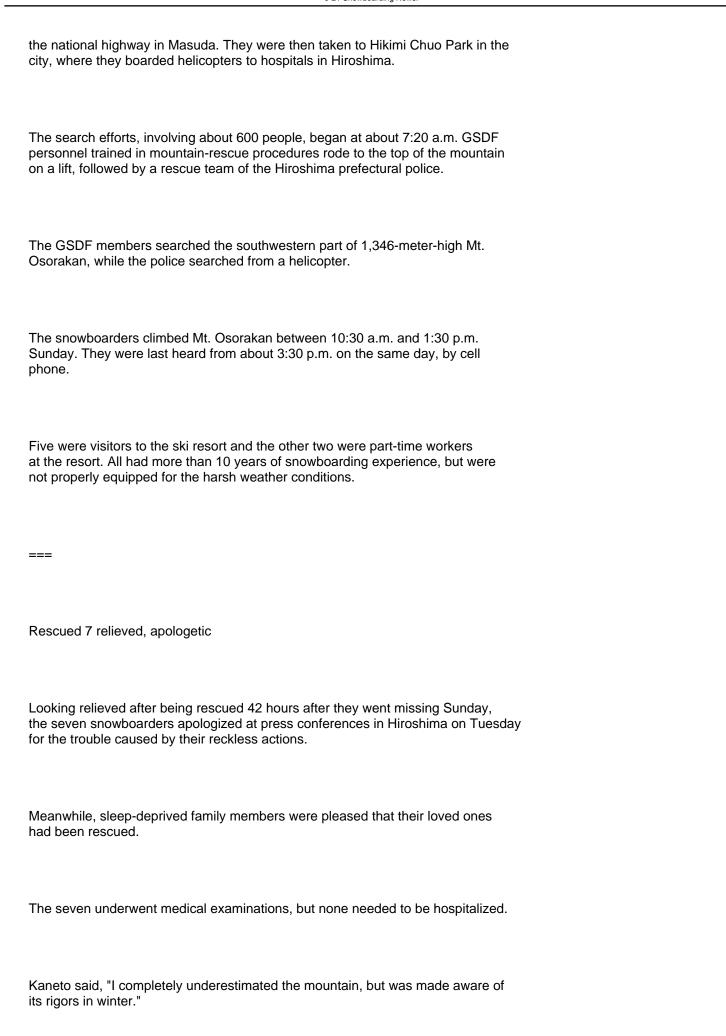
According to the countermeasures office, a rescue team comprising 24 personnel from a local fire brigade and the GSDF found two of the missing seven snowboarding along a road connecting Mt. Kyurakan to Mt. Hiromi in Shimane Prefecture.

Acting on information from the two, the squad found the other five about 100 meters east on a forest road. The five were also descending from the mountain by snowboarding or walking.

The squad informed the countermeasures office of their discovery by radio.

The seven took shelter in an abandoned primary school building. They shared food they carried with them, such as energy bars, and built a fire. The snow was about 2 meters deep in the area where they got lost and was difficult to walk in, the office said.

http://www.0-21.co.uk Powered by Joomla! Generated: 27 April, 2024, 06:18



http://www.0-21.co.uk Powered by Joomla! Generated: 27 April, 2024, 06:18



http://www.0-21.co.uk Powered by Joomla! Generated: 27 April, 2024, 06:18