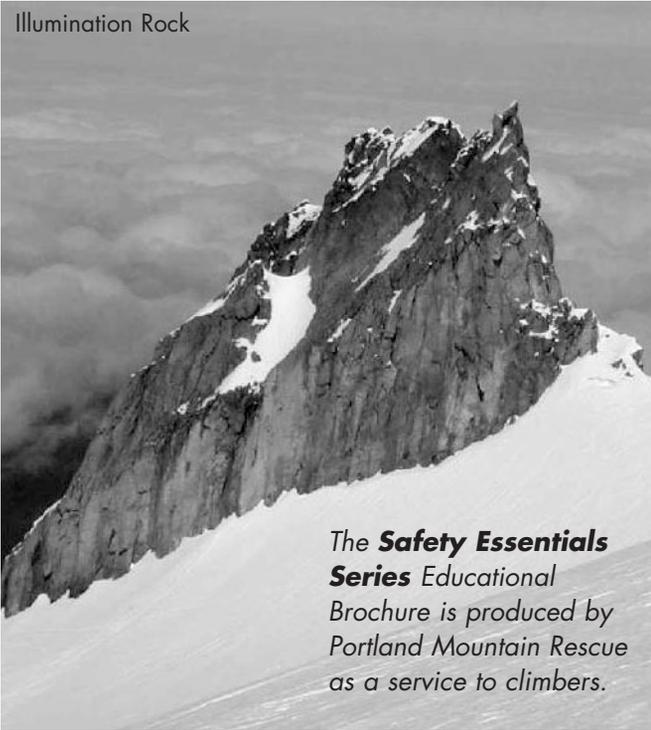


Illumination Rock



The **Safety Essentials Series** Educational Brochure is produced by Portland Mountain Rescue as a service to climbers.

Portland Mountain Rescue

is a group of dedicated Portland-area climbers that provides search and rescue services on a volunteer basis. We do not charge for our services and receive no money from government agencies. We rely on contributions from the public to fund our activities. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and can be mailed to the address below.



Portland Mountain Rescue

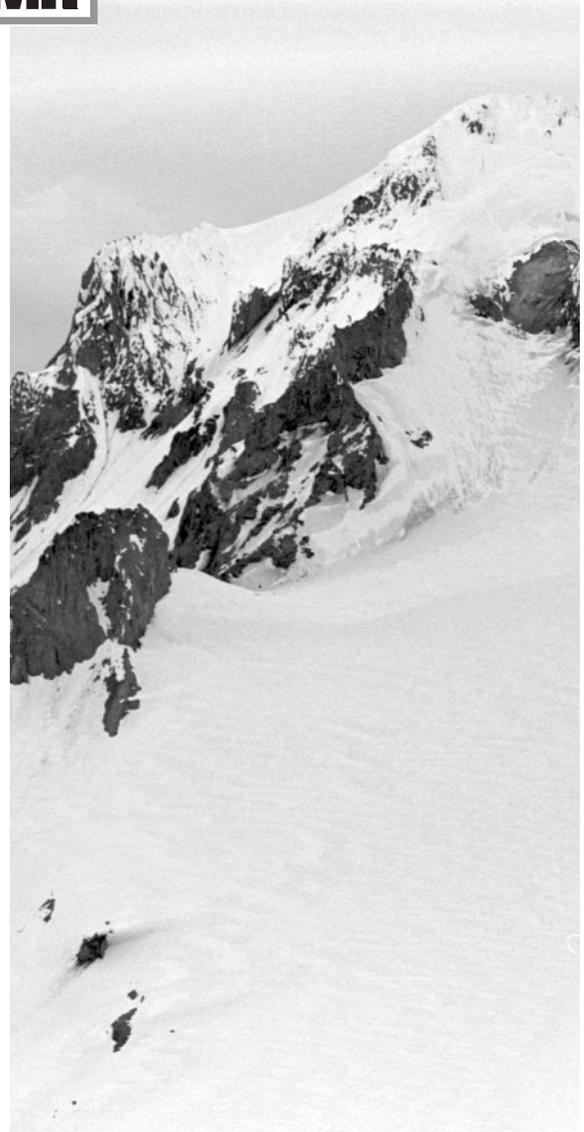
PO Box 5391
Portland, OR 97228-5391
503-972-7743
www.pmr.org



3

Safety Essentials Series

BEWARE: The Mount Hood Triangle



CLIMBERS - BEWARE THE MT. HOOD TRIANGLE

Most search and rescue operations on Mt. Hood are the result of climbers becoming lost on their descent from the South Side Route. Others have become lost while descending from camps at Illumination Saddle.

The most common problem occurs when visibility becomes poor and climbers descend without the aid of map and compass, thinking that if they simply go back downhill, they will surely return to the Lodge.

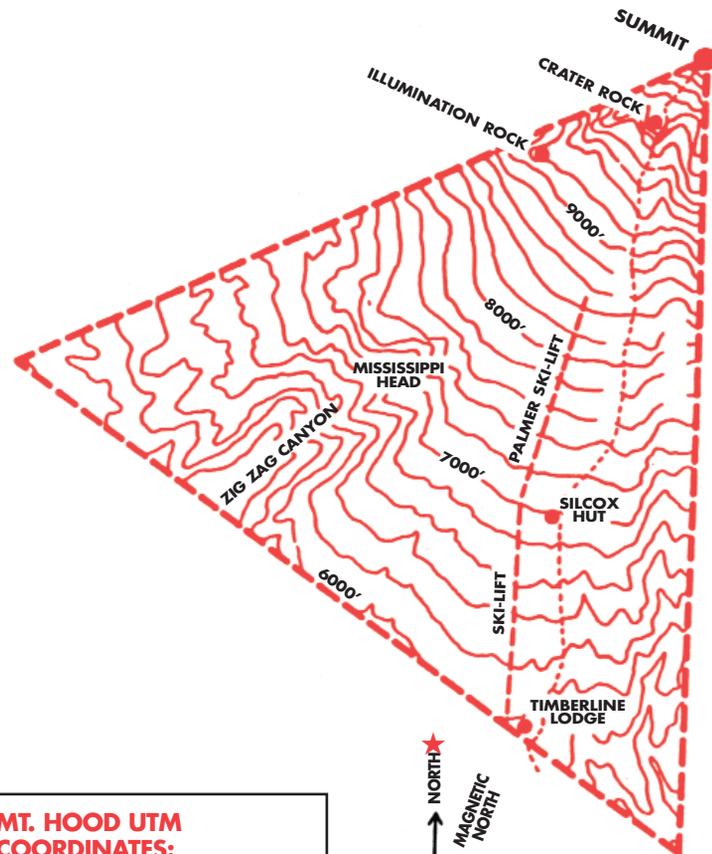
However, the fall line (route a ball will take if allowed to roll down a slope) from the base of Crater Rock to about the elevation of the top of the Palmer Ski Lift, does not fall toward Timberline Lodge to the south, but rather southwesterly in the direction of Zig Zag canyon and the cliffs of Mississippi Head.

An area of the descent that has caused a number of people to become confused and lost is the traverse around the east slopes of the base of Crater Rock, that area between Crater Rock and the Devil's Kitchen (the Devil's Kitchen is an area of rock kept bare of snow by the thermal activity of the mountain.) Occasionally, a climber will drop too low on the traverse and descend into the White River glacier and canyon to the east of the route.

More often, climbers will traverse around Crater Rock, staying on the correct descent route, but then glissade down the fall line to the west, unaware they are in trouble until they reach the canyons or cliffs below.

Carry a map, compass and an altimeter. Use your compass and believe it! Once you have descended around Crater Rock, by simply following the direction of the south end of the magnetic compass needle (i.e. magnetic due south), you will descend very close to the ski lifts and Silcox Hut. In low visibility, the descent by your compass may seem strange in that you will find yourself side hilling considerably to the left as you descend from Crater Rock to below 9000'.

MT. HOOD TRIANGLE AT-A-GLANCE



MT. HOOD UTM COORDINATES:

Though not a substitute for good navigation, a GPS unit and the following coordinates can be a valuable aid in poor visibility.

Timberline Lodge	E 0,601,049 N 5,020,302
Silcox Hut	E 0,601,226 N 5,021,810
Palmer Upper Term.	E 0,601,490 N 5,023,300
Illumination Saddle	E 0,601,240 N 5,024,440

