

California Men Who Used AI to Help Plan a Hike End Up Stranded on a Mountain

A group of men in California who went hiking last week used artificial intelligence to plan their excursion and ended up stranded before ultimately being rescued.

The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office posted about the rescue effort on social media Tuesday and warned the public never to rely on AI for complex journeys like this.

The three "novice" hikers from Roseville, California, initially made camp on Aug. 29, then pressed on to the Mount Shasta summit at 3:00 am on Aug. 30.

"The men summited at 7:00 pm that evening, well after the recommended turnaround time of 12:00 pm, and descended in the dark," the Facebook post read. "An hour into their descent, the party called the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office Dispatch to ask for directions, but eventually wandered off-route into the Mud Creek Canyon."

After one of the hikers injured his knee, the group became stranded until rangers found them and provided medical care.

The three climbers were not identified by name, People magazine reported.



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After being rescued, the group told authorities they had planned the hike with Google Gemini artificial intelligence. The AI system gave them bad routes, however, and didn't provide them with a complete list of what they should have

packed.

“This was a critical misstep, as they were advised by Gemini to bring far less food and water than their group required, especially when their planned 8 hour ascent became a multi-day ordeal,” the sheriff’s office declared.