

## Body of missing hiker discovered

**MOUNTAINS: Rescue workers resume a search that had been suspended since last weekend.**

10:06 PM PST on Saturday, January 31, 2004

By TANYA SIERRA / The Press-Enterprise

The body of a 25-year-old Seal Beach hiker, who had been missing for two weeks in the San Bernardino Mountains, was found Saturday afternoon, after rescue workers resumed a search that had been suspended since last weekend.

Eugene Kumm's body was found at the 8,000-foot level off of Vivian Creek Trail, San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Beavers said. She did not know the condition of the body or whether Kumm's belongings were found near it.

It became too dark for rescue workers to take Kumm's body out Friday, Beavers said. The coroner's office will examine the body and determine the cause of death after it is removed today. "We don't know if the body will be airlifted out or carried out by a team," she said.

Kumm set out on a hike about 9 a.m. Jan. 17 along Vivian Creek Trail above Forest Falls.

Searchers described him as a moderately experienced hiker. Kumm wrote on his U.S. Forest Service wilderness permit that he planned to hike about four miles along Vivian Creek Trail to High Creek and then return to Forest Falls.

However, other hikers told searchers that they encountered Kumm at 7 a.m. Jan. 18 trudging well above High Creek en route to the summit.

High Creek is 9,400 feet above sea level, about 2,100 feet shy of the summit of Mount San Geronio, the highest peak in Southern California.

Kumm, an engineer who lived in Orange County, was originally from Fremont, Neb. Family members reached by telephone at Kumm's father's home - also in Fremont - declined to comment Saturday.

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