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Stilt-Skates May Have Contributed to Donner Lake Drowning

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Authorities say stilt-skates may have contributed to the death of a Sacramento man who drowned after falling through ice at Donner Lake.

George Sommerdorf, 50, was wearing two foot tall stilts with ice skates fastened by screws and was 100 yards from the shore when he fell through the ice last Friday, according to Truckee Police Sgt. Tim Hargrove.

Members of the Truckee Fire and Police Joint Dive Team found the man's body the next day.

Hargrove said Sommerdorf had on long pants that covered the stilts, so from a distance he looked tall.

Investigators discovered the screw fasteners on one of Sommerdorf's ice skates had come loose and suspect that might have caused his fall through the ice, Hargrove said.

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