



2025 MIDYEAR REVIEW+  
**RESCUE  
REPORT**



## DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

### Howdy.

This past winter was one of the busiest ever for Teton County Search & Rescue. Between January 1 and March 31, the Team was called 40 times. Most were skiers and snowmobilers. Then between the first of April and Memorial Day, we fielded 11 calls, giving us a chance to catch our breath. As the spring gives way to summer and folks head back into the mountains, our rescue numbers go up again. We had four calls over Memorial weekend alone, igniting the summer rescue season.

This past winter we had an unusually high number of calls to rescue snowmobilers stranded deep in the backcountry in the middle of the night during storm cycles. We had five rescues that involved the Team out overnight on snowmobiles. Typically, the biggest rescues occur when the conditions are horrible and the stakes are high. This winter, the rescuers on TCSAR spent many nights out in blizzards saving lives.

In addition to the rescues, TCSAR is in the middle of two major projects. The first project is taking on a new class of rescuers. This is something we do every four to six years to keep our ranks filled. In January, we had 163 people apply to be on the Team. From those applicants, we selected 10 new rescuers to join our Team. It will take hundreds of hours of training and dedication for members of this new class to become great rescuers, but we know the class of 2025 will have a positive impact on our community for many years to come.

Second, we are hosting the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) here in Jackson this coming October. We will host 140 rescue teams from 47 countries for a five-day rescue conference. It is the largest gathering of SAR professionals in the world. We are expecting 800 people to travel here in what will likely be Jackson Hole's most international event ever. Hosting ICAR is a monumental lift for the Team, but we are energized to show the world who we are and what we can do.

I feel lucky to be the one to introduce you to this Rescue Report, but I am just telling the story of the work this Team has done. Our volunteers are committed and willing to work hard to provide a service to our community. In the thick of the rescue season, heading out into a storm at night starts to feel normal—but it is not. Whenever I can step back and get some perspective on the TCSAR Team, I am amazed that an ordinary group of community volunteers are able to come together, risk their lives, and go into the mountains to save people they've never met.

Sincerely,  
Cody Lockhart  
TCSAR CHIEF ADVISOR • VOLUNTEER #84

## TCSO: SAR ADVISORS & STAFF

**CODY LOCKHART**  
CHIEF ADVISOR

**ALEX NORTON**  
PLANNING ADVISOR

**ROBB SGROI**  
MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR

**ANTHONY STEVENS**  
TRAINING ADVISOR

**DOUG VAN HOUTEN**  
LOGISTICS ADVISOR

**AJ WHEELER, M.D.**  
MEDICAL ADVISOR

**MATT CARR**  
TCSO SHERIFF

**MIKE ESTES**  
TCSO SAR  
COORDINATOR

**STEVE WILSON**  
TCSO CHIEF PILOT

**JON BOURKE**  
TCSO DIRECTOR OF  
AVIATION OPERATIONS

**COLE DEINES**  
TCSO DIRECTOR OF  
AVIATION MAINTENANCE

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

**TCSAR VOLUNTEERS ARE READY TO RESPOND  
24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR.**

TCSAR volunteers elect six peers to serve as a Board of Advisors (BOA), guiding all aspects of Search & Rescue operations. After an emergency call, the BOA is first paged by Dispatch through the Teton County Sheriff's Office and determines how the team responds to backcountry rescues.

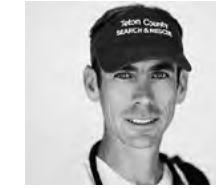
**FROM DECEMBER 01, 2024—MAY 31, 2025  
TCSAR HAS DEDICATED 4,592 HOURS  
TO THE FOLLOWING:**

**RESCUES: 1,737 HOURS**

**TRAINING: 2,708 HOURS**

**COMMUNITY EVENTS: 147 HOURS**

## TCSAR VOLUNTEERS & TCSO EMPLOYEES



AJ WHEELER



ALEX NORTON



ANDREW ARMINGTON



ANNA DISANTO



ANTHONY STEVENS



ASHLEY DIDION



BROOK YEOMANS



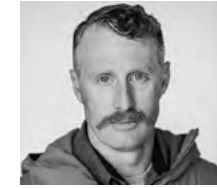
CAROL VIAU



CHASE LOCKHART



CHRIS STIEHL



CODY LOCKHART



DAN ROGERS



DON WATKINS



DOUG VAN HOUTEN



ED FRIES



ETHAN LOBDELL



GALEN PARKE



IAN JOHNSTON



JENN SPARKS



JON WIEDIE



KC BESS



KEEGAN PFEIL



LEXIE MACPHIE



MIKE MOYER



PHILLIP FOX



ROBB SGROI



RYAN COMBS



RYAN MERTAUGH



SCOTT GUENTHER



SCOTT SHERVIN



STEVE WURM



TED KYLE



TERRI ROMANOWSKI



TIM CIOCARLAN



TOBIN DENNIS



WILL SMITH



MATT CARR  
TCSO SHERIFF



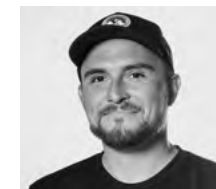
MIKE ESTES  
TCSO SAR COORDINATOR



STEVE WILSON  
TCSO CHIEF PILOT



JON BOURKE  
TCSO DIR. AVIATION OPS



COLE DEINES  
TCSO DIR. AVIATION MAINT.

# ICAR IS COMING TO JACKSON HOLE

ICAR 2025 WILL BE THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL EVENT IN JACKSON'S HISTORY



Teton County Search & Rescue is proud to be the host organization for the 2025 International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR). From October 7-12, TCSAR will host 140 rescue teams from 47

countries, in Jackson Hole. It is only the second time in ICAR's 77-year history that the event will be held in the United States, and the first time ever that the conference will be hosted by an individual U.S. SAR team.

"This will be the largest international event in Jackson's history, bringing the world's top Search & Rescue teams to experience what Jackson Hole is all about," said TCSAR Chief Advisor Cody Lockhart.

Recognizing the significance of this one-time event, the Jackson Hole Travel & Tourism Board approved TCSAR's funding request of \$450,000 to help showcase the intersection of outdoor adventure, responsible destination management, and backcountry safety.

"We are grateful to the Travel & Tourism Board for supporting an event that not only welcomes these teams to Jackson but does so in a responsible way," Lockhart said.

As the world's largest Search & Rescue organization, ICAR has convened annually for 77 years, selecting a different host city each time. The event brings SAR teams together from around the world to share knowledge, refine best practices, and advance mountain rescue techniques. TCSAR has a long history of attending ICAR, and credits the team's membership in the organization with helping to elevate volunteers' rescue skills and techniques.



OCTOBER 7-12

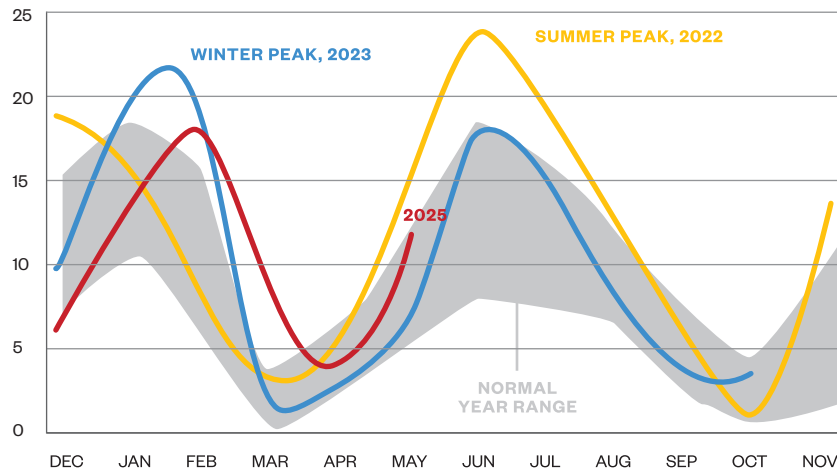
During the gathering in Jackson Hole, visiting teams will engage in advanced training sessions, attend conference presentations, and experience Jackson's unique outdoor landscape. Additionally, there will be community events and opportunities for local participation.

For more information, visit [www.icar2025jacksonhole.org](http://www.icar2025jacksonhole.org).

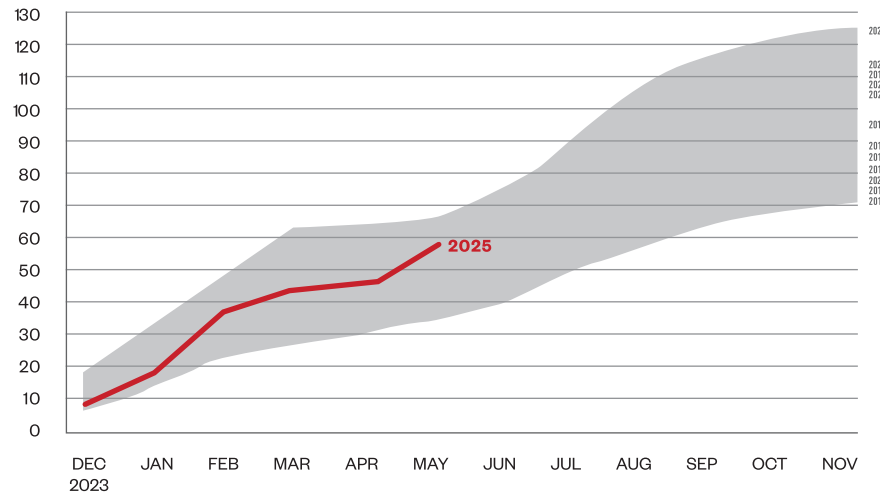


# DECEMBER 01, 2024—MAY 31, 2025 INCIDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

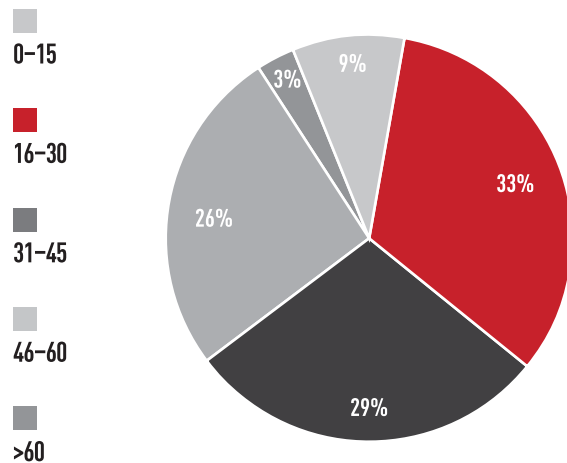
## RESCUES BY MONTH



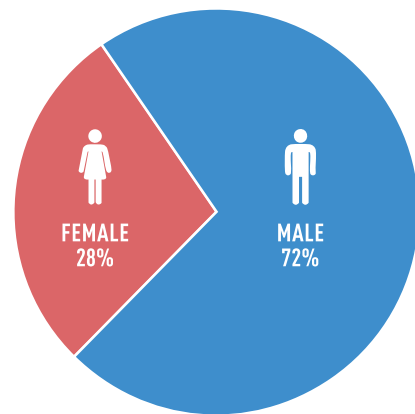
## RESCUES BY YEAR (Excludes GTNP helicopter requests)



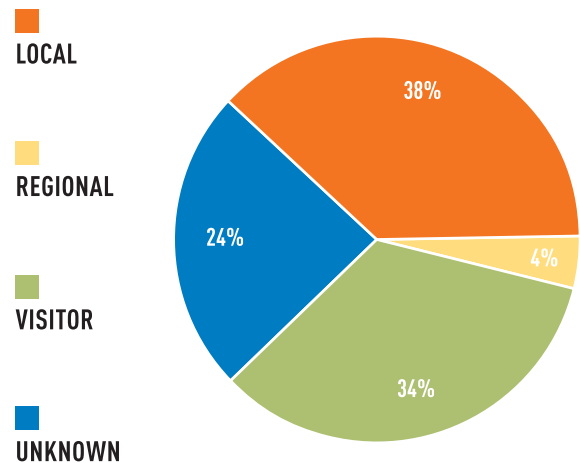
## RESCUES BY AGE



## RESCUES BY GENDER



## RESCUES BY RESIDENCY



# HOW TO CALL SEARCH AND RESCUE

## DIAL OR TEXT 911

911 calls in Teton County go to dispatch, which then contact the TCSAR Board of Advisors to formulate a rescue plan. Backcountry users are encouraged to call during an emergency as soon as possible.

All rescues provided by Teton County Search & Rescue are free of charge.

## USE HANDHELD SATELLITE DEVICES

New Apple iPhones are able to text via satellite when outside of cellular service. Learn more about this function on page 26.

Sat devices, such as a SPOT or Garmin inReach, have SOS satellite capabilities that allow the user to connect with dispatch, and they often require a subscription.

## BACKCOUNTRY SOS

BackcountrySOS is a free app developed by TCSAR Foundation that acts as a text to 911 with minimal cell service.

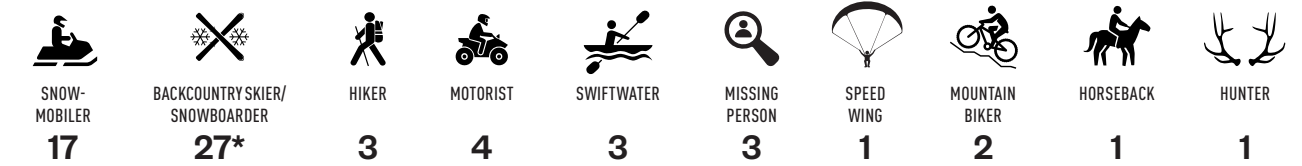
## WHAT SHOULD YOU SAY WHEN YOU CALL 911?

1. Provide your location first in case the call gets dropped.
2. Include the nature of the accident and condition of the person in need.
3. Try not to move around when speaking so that the call does not drop.
4. Unless you are in immediate danger, stay in your same location until Search & Rescue arrives.

# DECEMBER 01, 2024—MAY 31, 2025 TCSAR INCIDENT RESPONSES

The following incident summaries are shared in order to provide lessons learned and to highlight the importance of decision-making and preparedness in the backcountry. They are also intended to show the commitment of TCSAR volunteers and their partners, who remain on call no matter the season.

## BY THE NUMBERS: RESCUE CALLS FOR SERVICE



\*18 accessed the backcountry by a chairlift

## INJURED SNOWMOBILER ON TOGWOTEE PASS

DECEMBER 21, 2024 @ 11:09AM

DURATION: 2 hours, 36 minutes

ATTENDEES: 20

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A Togwotee snowmobile guide called 911 after he came across a snowmobiler in a private party that he believed had a broken leg. TCSAR dispatched a helicopter team with four volunteers. The heli landed near the patient, and the volunteers loaded him into the ship for transport to a waiting ambulance at the Blackrock Ranger Station. One SAR member stayed behind to drive the patient's snowmobile back to their vehicle at Togwotee Lodge.



**WHAT HAPPENED:** Jackson Hole Ski Patrol notified TCSAR that they were responding to a call for a cliffed-out skier in the Jersey Shore area just south of the resort boundary. A female companion had already dropped the cliff but lost a ski and was uninjured. The male skier was unable to go up or down. Patrol was able to take care of the situation without TCSAR resources.

## LOST SKIER IN GRAND TARGHEE BACKCOUNTRY

DECEMBER 29, 2024 @ 3:28PM

DURATION: 11 minutes

ATTENDEES: 14 • Grand Targhee Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Targhee Ski Patrol notified dispatch that they were responding to an out-of-bounds skier who needed assistance getting back to the resort. No additional resources were needed.

## SKIERS IN TROUBLE ON THE JERSEY SHORE

DECEMBER 27, 2024 @ 3:19PM

DURATION: 37 minutes

ATTENDEES: 9 • JHMR Ski Patrol Assist



## STRANDED SNOWMOBILERS ON TOGWOTEE

**DECEMBER 29, 2024 @ 3:40PM**

**DURATION:** 10 hours, 20 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 14

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR volunteers, along with Togwotee Mountain Guides, were involved in a search for four snowmobilers who'd become stuck on Togwotee Pass. The teams searched for the lost party during whiteout conditions, and eventually brought them out of the backcountry around midnight.

TCSAR wants to highlight the critical help provided by Togwotee Mountain Guides, who assisted the rescue effort even though the party in question was not part of their operation.

The party consisted of two Jackson residents, male and female with previous backcountry experience, who rented two tandem sleds to take their visiting parents, who are in their 60s, out for an unguided snowmobile excursion on Togwotee Pass. They had a map on their phone of their intended route. However, the groomed trail they started on eventually became ungroomed, causing their sleds to get stuck. To call for help, the Jackson woman used her iPhone's satellite function to text a friend in town, and followed up with a text to 911 about an hour later to provide coordinates and trail location. Believing they were in danger, the party then left their snowmobiles to attempt to walk out.

PHOTO: TCSAR

TCSAR arrived at Togwotee with a team of six snowmobilers. Battling whiteout conditions, the volunteers found the stranded rental sleds but not the people. The team then discovered a ping from the phone in another drainage. Togwotee guides responded into that drainage and located the lost party at about 10:30 p.m.

The team eventually transported the party out of the backcountry to safety by midnight, with volunteers making it home around 3 a.m. The volunteers reiterated their appreciation for the help from Togwotee Mountain Guides, and are glad the lost snowmobilers made it out of a scary situation.

### AVALANCHE IN GRAND TARGHEE BACKCOUNTRY

**DECEMBER 30, 2024 @12:39PM**

**DURATION:** 43 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 8 • Grand Targhee Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Targhee Ski Patrol notified TCSAR that it was responding to a report of a small avalanche outside the ski area boundary on the southern rope line. Patrol verified that no one was caught and buried, and that no additional resources were needed.

### IPHONE CRASH ALERT

**DECEMBER 31, 2024 @12:26PM**

**DURATION:** 12 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 5

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Dispatch received an automated crash notification from an iPhone located in the Toppings Lake area. It turned out to be a false alert.

### STUCK SNOWMOBILERS ON TOGWOTEE

**JANUARY 2, 2025 @12:31PM**

**DURATION:** 59 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 15

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was paged to respond to a snowmobiler who was stuck in a creek on Togwotee Pass. While the team was responding to the hangar, Togwotee

Mountain Guides were able to extricate the stuck rider and the team was stood down.

### STUCK SNOWMOBILER ON TOGWOTEE

**JANUARY 4, 2025 @11:17AM**

**DURATION:** 22 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 8

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A snowmobiler became stuck on a steep hillside near Togwotee Lodge and got left behind by his party. The subject was able to communicate with dispatch via satellite text, saying he was OK but needed help extricating his sled. At the same time, TCSAR was notified of a known avalanche burial up the road on Togwotee Pass, and the team directed their efforts there (see next page). The man's friends returned and helped him free his stuck machine.

### INJURED SKIER IN JHMR BACKCOUNTRY

**JANUARY 8, 2024 @9:40AM**



**DURATION:** 1 hour, 50 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 22 • JHMR Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR sent a helicopter team to assist Jackson Hole Ski Patrol in the rescue of an injured skier in the Rock Springs area outside the JHMR boundary. Once picked up, the patient was flown to SAR HQ and transferred to a waiting ambulance.

### INJURED SKIER ON MAVERICK

**JANUARY 10, 2025 @1:44PM**

**DURATION:** 3 hours, 1 minutes

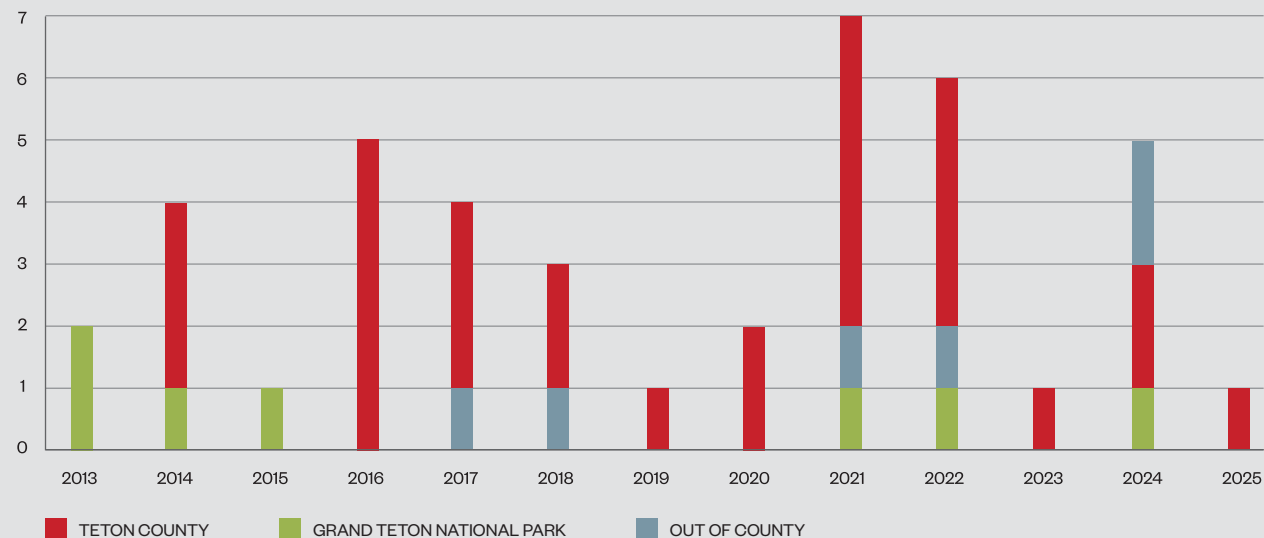
**ATTENDEES:** 12 • GTNP Heli Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Teton National Park requested helicopter assistance from TCSAR for an injured skier in the area known as Maverick. The pilot flew to Windy Point and picked up two Jenny Lake Rangers. The ship then flew to the skier's location where the rangers packaged the patient, loaded him internally, and flew him back to a waiting ambulance at Windy Point.



## SAR FATALITY RESPONSES BY YEAR

*This graph shows the number of times that TCSAR was called out to respond to a fatality in the backcountry. It does not represent the total number of fatalities in our area.*





## AVALANCHE BURIAL AT BRECCIA CLIFFS

**JANUARY 4, 2025 @11:26AM**

**DURATION:** 10 hours, 9 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 22

**WHAT HAPPENED:** During a previous call for a stuck snowmobiler, Teton County Search & Rescue was alerted for a known avalanche burial on Togwotee Pass. The emergency alert came in via iPhone satellite text-to-911, and it was unclear whether the avalanche involved snowmobilers or skiers.

Initial reports indicated that a group of four was in the Breccia Cliffs area when they triggered an avalanche. As TCSAR mobilized, the team learned that it was a party of four skiers who'd triggered the slide as they were ascending a skin track. The avalanche partially buried one skier and fully buried another. The partially buried skier sustained a lower leg injury.

TCSAR responded with teams in the helicopter, on snowmobiles, and on skis. The helicopter team lifted off but returned when weather conditions did not permit

an air response. The snowmobile team was also unable to reach the party of skiers due to the challenging conditions.

A team of skiers from TCSAR approached the area on skins and were able to get on scene at approximately 3:47 p.m. The volunteers encountered potential hangfire above and a burial that was 13 feet deep.

Volunteers applied treatment to the injured skier and remaining members of the party. The volunteers also worked to begin recovering the buried skier for transport out of the backcountry. The volunteers worked into the evening, skiing the injured skier out of the backcountry in a litter to a waiting ambulance from Grand Teton National Park. The team also skied the deceased skier out via a sked. This serves as an important reminder of how much longer a mission can take when the helicopter is grounded, and is another factor to consider in your backcountry planning should an accident occur.

The buried skier, a 36-year-old man from Lander with extensive backcountry experience, did not survive. TCSAR extends its most sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased skier.

PHOTO: TCSAR

**INJURED SKIER IN JHMR BACKCOUNTRY**  
**JANUARY 11, 2025 @1:12PM**

**DURATION:** 46 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 9 • JHMR Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Jackson Hole Ski Patrol notified TCSAR that they were responding to an injured skier in the North Bowl area outside the resort boundary. Patrol handled the incident without SAR resources.

**SKIERS CLIFFED-OUT ON JERSEY SHORE**  
**JANUARY 15, 2025 @3:20PM**

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 23 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 9 • JHMR Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Jackson Hole Ski Patrol notified TCSAR that they were responding to a group of teenagers who were cliffed-out on Jersey Shore, a dangerous cliff band just outside the resort boundary. Ski patrol handled the incident and no SAR resources were needed.

**STANDBY FOR MISSING SNOWMOBILER**  
**JANUARY 16, 2025 @2:22PM**

**DURATION:** 7 hours, 17 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 11 • Fremont County SAR Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** An 87-year-old man on a snowmobile was reported missing after he did not return from an outing in the Sheridan Creek area near Dubois. Fremont County SAR was actively searching for the man and requested that TCSAR place its helicopter on standby if they could not locate him. Fremont County SAR eventually found him alive and well. His sled had broken down the day before and he spent the night out but was otherwise just fine.

**SNOWMOBILE CRASH ON**  
**MUNGER MOUNTAIN**

**JANUARY 18, 2025 @10:01AM**

**DURATION:** 59 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 33

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was paged to respond to a snowmobile crash on Munger Mountain. A 50-year-old

man from out of state was driving a rental sled as part of a guided group when he ran into a barbed wire fence near the base of Munger Mountain.

Given the nature of the man's suspected injuries, TCSAR flew the helicopter to the site with three volunteers. A backup team drove to the site with snowmobiles for additional help. The helicopter landed near the patient, who was loaded internally for transport. The helicopter flew the patient to the TCSAR HQ where an ambulance transported him to higher medical care.

Unfortunately, the man did not survive. Our team extends its most sincere condolences to the man's family and friends.

**INJURED SKIER AT**  
**TREASURE MOUNTAIN**

**JANUARY 25, 2025 @10:45AM**

**DURATION:** 2 hours, 15 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 15

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A NOLS group in Treasure Mountain called 911 to report that a woman in their party had sustained a knee injury while skiing and they would need help getting her out of the backcountry. A heli team from TCSAR flew to the location, picked up the patient, and flew her to the Teton Canyon trailhead where she was transported by NOLS staff to higher medical care.

**STUCK SNOWMOBILERS IN**  
**NORTH FORK OF SPREAD CREEK**

**JANUARY 30, 2025 @3:42PM**

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 3 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 17 • Togwotee Mountain Guides Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Four snowmobilers, ranging in age from 13 to 58, needed assistance after getting three of their four sleds stuck in a creek in the Togwotee Pass area. A team of Togwotee Mountain Lodge guides responded and were able to locate them, get the sleds unstuck, and help them back to the lodge.



## INJURED SKIER IN JHMR BACKCOUNTRY

**JANUARY 16, 2025**

**@11:59AM**

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 46 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 17 • JHMR Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was notified by Jackson Hole Ski Patrol that they were responding to an injured skier out of bounds. The patient, a female who had been skiing in the Pinedale drainage, sustained a lower leg injury that prevented her from skiing out of the backcountry on her own.

Patrol arrived on scene and helped stabilize and package the patient. Due to the nature of the injury and location, TCSAR opted for a helicopter response. Two volunteers joined the pilot and flew to the accident site. They landed and loaded the patient internally, and transported her to a waiting ambulance at the base of Teton Village.



### STRANDED SNOWBOARDER AT GRAND TARGHEE BACKCOUNTRY

JANUARY 31, 2025 @2:41PM

**DURATION:** 49 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 10 • Grand Targhee Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Targhee Ski Patrol alerted TCSAR that they were heading out of bounds to help a stranded snowboarder. Patrol handled the incident and no SAR resources were required.

### STUCK SNOWMOBILER IN HILL CREEK

FEBRUARY 4, 2025 @3:56PM

**DURATION:** 2 hours, 22 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 11

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was notified that a snowmobiler was stuck in the area of Hill Creek, a drainage on the western slope of the Tetons. The local male resident had motored into the drainage a couple of miles when his machine became mired in deep, wet snow.

A TCSAR volunteer happened to be snowmobiling in the vicinity during his time off. He responded to help the man but informed Incident Command that conditions were too dangerous for a ground response. Opting for a helicopter rescue, TCSAR dispatched three short-haul members in the ship with the pilot, and they flew to the scene. The team then successfully short-hauled the man out of the backcountry (leaving the sled behind), and returned to base just minutes before 'pumpkin hour,' known as 30 minutes after sunset.

During the mission debrief, TCSAR learned that this snowmobiler had attended the Moto Avalanche Safety Night at the Virginian on December 12, where he said he learned to call 911 early if a situation arised. That he put in the call when he did allowed TCSAR the extra bit of time to consider various options, along with the safety of the stranded snowmobiler and SAR volunteers. Our team was happy to help get this snowmobiler out of there before nightfall and weather complicated matters.

### STRANDED SNOWBOARDERS IN GRAND TARGHEE BACKCOUNTRY

FEBRUARY 8, 2025 @11:30AM

**DURATION:** 3 hours, 30 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 14 • Grand Targhee Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Three snowboarders became cliffed-out and stranded out of bounds in the Grand Targhee Resort backcountry. The party consisted of one adult male, one 18-year-old female, and one 16-year-old male. The group was reportedly not carrying any backcountry safety equipment. Initial reports indicate that they had encountered complex terrain, preventing self-extrication. The individuals were not injured but unable to navigate back to the resort or reach a safe descent route independently. The initial distress call was received via a cell phone.

As TCSAR considered a response, the volunteers developed two rescue scenarios: One would involve a helicopter short-haul extraction; if conditions did not permit an aerial response, Grand Targhee Ski Patrol would use ropes to conduct a controlled lower of the group into Teton Canyon, where they would be met by snowmobiles.

Grand Targhee Ski Patrol made initial contact with the stranded party and determined that a short-haul would be the preferred operation.

The TCSAR pilot and short-haul team flew to the scene, where they extricated two members from their predicament and flew them to a landing zone at the Teton Canyon Trailhead. The helicopter returned to short-haul the remaining snowboarder and TCSAR volunteer out of the backcountry to the same landing zone. The ship then proceeded to the Driggs airport, where the team refueled and then returned to HQ in Jackson.

TCSAR appreciates the coordination and assistance from Grand Targhee Ski Patrol, and encourages everyone heading into the backcountry to carry the appropriate gear, know where you're going, and be aware of specific terrain and snow hazards that may put you and your rescuers at risk.



### SKIER WITH MEDICAL ISSUE ON TETON PASS

FEBRUARY 10, 2025 @10:16AM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 22 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 14

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A pair of backcountry skiers called 911 after coming across another male skier who was having a medical issue on the south side of Teton Pass.

The alert was relayed to Teton County Search & Rescue, which happened to have a short-haul team at the ready for a morning of routine training.

The pilot and three volunteers paused their training and flew to the scene in an area known as Olympic Bowl. The helicopter dropped off two volunteers, who skied to the patient and began initial treatment. Given the skier's condition, the team called for a short-haul operation, which lifted the patient to a waiting ambulance near the top of Teton Pass. The man was transported to St. John's Health, while the ship picked up all volunteers and returned to the hangar, completing the mission in 1 hour, 22 minutes.

Our team commends the reporting party for aiding their fellow skier in putting in the call to request advanced medical attention. It serves as another good reminder that backcountry travelers should call 911 as soon as they believe an emergency is at hand, even when the details may not be fully apparent.

After the incident, the two skiers continued on with their day, and volunteers went back to their training.



### HEAD INJURY AT GRANITE CREEK

FEBRUARY 12, 2025 @2:58PM

**DURATION:** 26 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 15

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TOSAR was called out to respond to a woman with a medical issue in the Granite Creek area. After some discussion with the patient and her husband, the party decided to self-transport and the team stood down.

## MIDNIGHT MISSION ON TOGWOTEE PASS

FEBRUARY 2, 2025 @7:53PM

**DURATION:** 16 hours, 10 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 14

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was paged regarding a group of snowmobilers who'd become stuck on the Togwotee Pass trail network, an incident that led to another late-night mission and the use of satellite texting via an iPhone.

The group sent out an emergency text-to-911 via satellite along with their coordinates to the Teton County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center. Dispatch contacted TCSAR and indicated that the party of four were in the vicinity of the K and V trails. The group consisted of two men and two teenage boys visiting from Minnesota.

With high winds and drifting snow limiting visibility, TCSAR volunteers responded with teams on snowmobiles. Just past midnight, a group of six volunteers located

the missing party about eight miles from the trailhead. They were cold but otherwise unharmed. The trail they were on had essentially disappeared under snow drifts.

The volunteers helped dig out two of the stuck snowmobiles. The two men in the missing party were able to ride their sleds out of the backcountry, while the two boys were transported by TCSAR volunteers back to Togwotee Mountain Lodge.

The volunteers returned to the hangar in Jackson just before 3 a.m. and prepped the equipment for the next callout.

This incident showed some progress in how the SAR team was able to use the iPhone satellite text in an emergency. As the incident unfolded, one of the men was using his iPhone to text his wife via satellite. She connected with TCSAR, who asked her to tell her husband to initiate a text to TCSAR incident command. He did so, which enabled back-and-forth text communication between his party and incident command at TCSAR.



PHOTO: TCSAR

**IPHONE CRASH ALERT ON TOGWOTEE PASS**

FEBRUARY 14, 2025 @11:33AM

**DURATION:** 4 hours, 18 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was paged after dispatch received an emergency crash alert from a phone on Togwotee Pass. All attempts to reach the caller went straight to voicemail. Four hours later, the phone's owner called to say it was a false activation.

**STUCK SNOWMOBILE, LOST BOOT, AT TRIANGLE X**

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 @1:30AM

**DURATION:** 3 hours, 50 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 3

**WHAT HAPPENED:** In the first of three calls on Presidents' Day, two people took an evening snowmobile ride up a road near Triangle X. The pair became stuck and decided to walk out, with one person losing a boot in the deep snow. An emergency call was placed at 1:30 a.m. Due to the time of day, TCSAR assembled a small team and entered the field on snowmobiles. The volunteers soon found the stranded couple, providing a boot, and a free ride out of the backcountry. The volunteers made it back to SAR HQ at 5:15 a.m.

**AVALANCHE IN GRANITE CANYON**

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 @4:13PM

**DURATION:** 2 hours, 47 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 20 • GTNP Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The next call on Presidents' Day arrived at approximately 4:40 p.m. The alert regarded a local skier who'd been caught and injured by an avalanche in Granite Canyon, outside of the JHMR boundary. As Granite Canyon lies within Grand Teton National Park, the park coordinated the rescue effort



with the Jenny Lake Rangers, Jackson Hole Ski Patrol, and TCSAR.

The skier became injured after she was carried a few hundred feet down the slope and into a tree. Ski patrol arrived on scene to provide initial patient care and placed her in a toboggan for transport out of the canyon. Meanwhile, TCSAR initiated a helicopter response with the pilot, one Jenny Lake Ranger, and two TCSAR volunteers. Park rangers also prepared a snowmobile team as backup.

The heli team found a narrow window of weather and daylight and successfully short-hauled the patient to a waiting ambulance at the base of Teton Village. The helicopter quickly departed back to Jackson before dark.

**STUCK SNOWMOBILERS AT BALDY KNOLL**

FEBRUARY 17, 2025 @4:48PM

**DURATION:** 3 hours, 22 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 21

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The third call on the holiday came just minutes after the initial page for the Granite Canyon avalanche. This call concerned a pair of snowmachiners who had become stuck near Baldy Knoll on the western slope of the Tetons. A team of three TCSAR volunteers departed up the trail on snowmobiles and located the stuck party at 6:40 p.m. The volunteers helped the snowmobilers dig out their sleds and all were able to safely navigate back to the trailhead.

**AVALANCHE INVESTIGATION IN GRAND TARGHEE BACKCOUNTRY**

FEBRUARY 18, 2025 @12:09PM

**DURATION:** 24 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Targhee Ski Patrol notified TCSAR that they were investigating an avalanche in an area outside the resort boundary. After sweeping the slide path and debris pile and interviewing the reporting party, it was determined that no one had been caught in the slide.



“Even experienced skiers and snowmobilers can run into trouble due to weather, fatigue, or tough route-finding.

That's why everyone should always carry the essentials: A beacon, shovel, probe, food, layers, and a phone charger. Plus, leave a trip plan even when venturing into familiar terrain, and if you need help, call 911. Then stay put to make it easier for rescuers to find you.

— PHILLIP FOX  
SAR #93

PHOTO: DAVID BOWERS

**SNOWMOBILE CRASH ON TOGWOTEE PASS**

FEBRUARY 18, 2025 @2:56PM

**DURATION:** 30 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 15

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The TCSAR Board of Advisors were paged by dispatch after receiving an alert regarding a snowmobile accident on Togwotee Pass. A guide on scene described a possible broken arm, but that he would be able to help escort the injured rider back to the highway.

**STUCK SNOWBOARDER IN GRAND TARGHEE BACKCOUNTRY**

FEBRUARY 20, 2025 @12:00PM

**DURATION:** 2 hours**ATTENDEES:** 8 • Grand Targhee Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Targhee Ski Patrol notified TCSAR that they were responding to a snowboarder who was stuck and stranded out of bounds. When the man made it to Teton Canyon, two volunteers took snowmobiles up Teton Canyon to give the man and patroller a ride to the trailhead.

**SELF-RESCUE ON MOUNT GLORY**

FEBRUARY 24, 2025 @11:53AM

**DURATION:** 10 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 8

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A 32-year-old male skier sustained a leg injury after striking a tree while descending the East Ridge of Mount Glory. Just after a page went out to the TCSAR team, the reporting party called to say they were going to attempt to self-rescue. The team stood down.

**STUCK SNOWMOBILERS ON TOGWOTEE**

FEBRUARY 24, 2025 @4:18PM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 1 minute**ATTENDEES:** 13

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Two of three snowmobilers on rental sleds from Dubois had their machines get stuck

on Togwotee Pass. TCSAR contacted the rental company, who said they would go help their clients shovel out of their predicament. After the snowmobilers were free, they texted the Board to say, "We're out and safe, love ya."

**INJURED SKIER ON BREAK NECK**

FEBRUARY 26, 2025 @11:56 AM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 4 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Jackson Hole Ski Patrol requested helicopter assistance after responding to a skier who'd been injured after falling down Break Neck, a steep, cliffy backcountry area south of the resort boundary. The TCSAR pilot and two volunteers flew to the scene and loaded the 33-year-old male patient into the ship for transport to a waiting ambulance at SAR HQ.

**SHORT-HAUL ON PUCKER FACE**

MARCH 8, 2025 @10:43AM

**DURATION:** 2 hours, 32 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 14

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The first of three calls on March 8 came in at 10:43 a.m. for an injured skier on Pucker Face outside of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Jackson Hole Ski Patrol arrived on scene and requested helicopter assistance after assessing the patient, a 34-year-old local male. A heli team from TCSAR flew to the scene, splinted the skier's leg, and short-hauled him to a waiting ambulance at the base of Teton Village.

**SHORT-HAUL IN STEWART'S DRAW**

MARCH 8, 2025 @2:45PM

Duration: 2 hours

Attendees: 6 • GTNP Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Later, at 2:45 p.m., Jenny Lake Rangers in GTNP requested helicopter assistance from TCSAR after receiving an emergency call regarding an injured male skier near the bottom of Stewart's Draw.



A heli team including park and TCSAR personnel responded to the accident site. The team short-hauled the local skier out of the backcountry, from where he elected to self-transport to higher medical care.

**STUCK SNOWMOBILER IN GROS VENTRE MOUNTAINS**

MARCH 8, 2025 @5:43PM

Duration: 9 hours, 2 minutes

Attendees: 16

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The day's third rescue call came at 5:43 p.m. for a snowmobiler deep in the Gros Ventre Mountains. The 52-year-old local male had been crossing a snow bridge on his machine when the snow collapsed beneath him, causing him and the machine to fall into a creek.

TCSAR sent four volunteers up the Gros Ventre Road via snowmobile, while another team entered the backcountry from Togwotee Pass. A friend of the stranded snowmobiler also joined the effort. The friend made contact with the subject at 11:23 p.m., followed by TCSAR volunteers about 30 minutes later. The subject was reported to be extremely tired and cold. After trying to warm the subject, TCSAR transported him out of the backcountry to the Gros Ventre Road, where a family member drove him back to town. The volunteers arrived back at the SAR headquarters at approximately 3:45 a.m.

**SHORT-HAUL IN AVALANCHE CANYON**

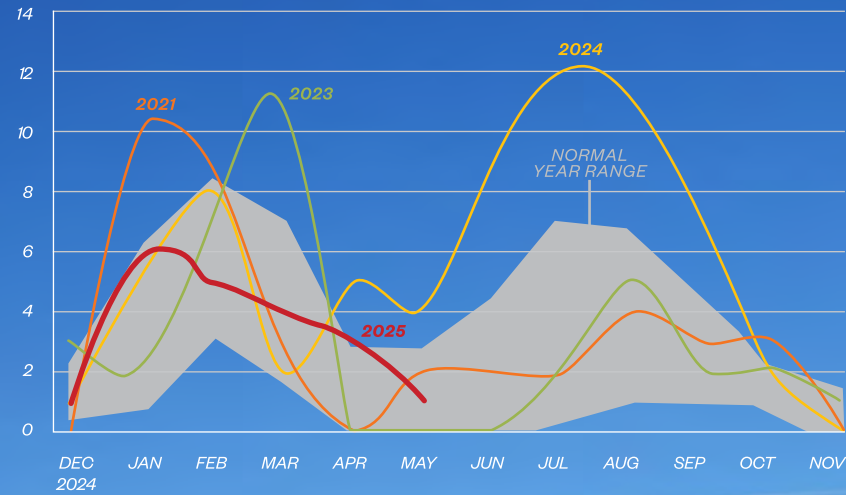
MARCH 9, 2025 @1:40PM

**DURATION:** 3 hours, 5 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 11 • GTNP Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** GTNP called dispatch to request helicopter assistance for an injured skier in Avalanche Canyon. The TCSAR pilot flew to Beaver Creek where he picked up two Jenny Lake Rangers and inserted them into the field next to the patient. The rangers packaged the patient and short-hauled her to a waiting ambulance at Beaver Creek.



## HELI RESCUES BY MONTH



## HELI RESCUES PER YEAR

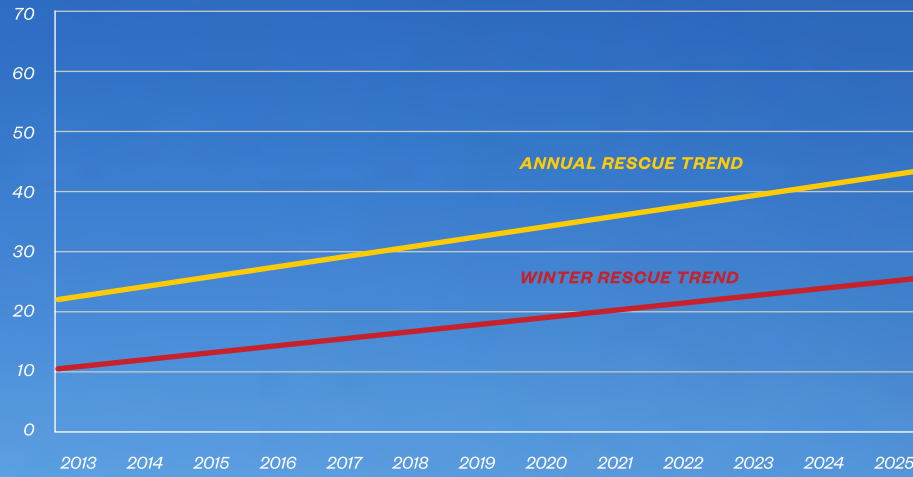


PHOTO: ANTHONY PECCHI

### LOST HIKERS AT TAGGART LAKE

MARCH 14, 2025 @3:44PM

**DURATION:** 16 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 1 • GTNP Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A concerned mother called TCSAR to report that a party of nine people were lost during a hike to Taggart Lake in Grand Teton National Park. The call was handed off to the park as it was in their jurisdiction. Park staff handled the call.

### SNOWMOBILE CRASH AT MUNGER MOUNTAIN

MARCH 19, 2025 @1:14PM

**DURATION:** 2 hours, 56 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 11

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was called to respond to a 51-year-old woman on a guided snowmobile trip who crashed her sled near the base of Munger Mountain. Rescuers intended to drive into her location on snowmobiles, but instead got a lift by the guide company's snowcat. The team packaged the patient and loaded her into the snowcat for transport back to the trailhead for a waiting ambulance.

### LIFE360 CRASH FALSE ALERT

MARCH 19, 2025 @2:57PM

**DURATION:** 13 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 6

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Dispatch received a Life360 Alert crash notification, placing the subject directly across the highway from Togwotee Lodge. It turned out to be a false notification.

### STUCK SKIER IN GRAND TARGHEE BACKCOUNTRY

MARCH 20, 2025 @9:56 AM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 20 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 10 • Grand Targhee Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Targhee dispatch notified

RIGHT PHOTO: DAVID BOWERS

TCSAR that ski patrol was heading out of bounds to help a stuck skier, and that they might need SAR assistance. After reaching the subject, patrol established a boot pack and helped the skier hike back in bounds.

### INJURED SKIER IN JHMR BACKCOUNTRY

MARCH 24, 2025 @2:00PM

**DURATION:** 2 hours, 24 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 13 • JHMR Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Jackson Hole Ski Patrol requested helicopter assistance from TCSAR after responding to an injured skier south of the resort backcountry. The skier, a 37-year-old female, was skiing with a guide at the time of the accident. A helicopter team from TCSAR landed near the patient, loaded her internally, and transported her to the landing zone at the base of Teton Village. From there, she opted to self-transport to higher medical care.



### SKIER FALL IN CENTRAL COULOIR

APRIL 3, 2025 @3:48PM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 42 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 16 • JHMR Ski Patrol Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR volunteers were alerted by Jackson Hole Ski Patrol that a skier had fallen down Central Couloir, the prominent, steep line on Cody Peak south of the resort boundary.

The skier, a 54-year-old woman from Victor, Idaho, lost her balance and began falling about halfway down the couloir and over the exit cliffs at the bottom. Ski patrol made the initial response. After assessing the skier's injuries, patrol called for helicopter assistance from TCSAR.

Volunteers dispatched a team in the helicopter. The ship landed near the patient, who was then loaded internally for transport to the base of Teton Village, where she elected to self transport for higher medical care.



**“** This winter's call volume seemed to ebb and flow with the storm cycles. We had several unique rescues that really hit home, where Mother Nature surprised us and accidents occurred to even the most experienced backcountry users. I'm forever grateful to serve this community, and for the support we receive from so many —never take a warm, down puffy for granted!

—ANNA DiSANTO  
SAR #31



**MEDICAL ISSUE IN GROS VENTRE MOUNTAINS**

APRIL 10, 2025 @11:00AM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 38 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was alerted regarding a male having a medical issue far up the Gros Ventre Road, with only access via snowmobile or helicopter. TCSAR assembled a helicopter team while placing a request for assistance from Air Idaho, a private air ambulance. Ultimately, TCSAR's heli team stood down while Air Idaho was able to fly to the patient, pick him up, and transport him to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.

**STUCK TREASURE HUNTERS ON GRANITE CREEK ROAD**

APRIL 19, 2025 @9:39AM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 18 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 11

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Two men from Tennessee became stuck after driving their rental car up Granite Creek Road in search of buried treasure. In pursuit of Forrest Fenn's reconstituted treasure (the treasure was found in 2020, but ostensibly has been reburied), the men drove around a locked Forest Service gate and became mired in snow and mud. They spent the night out before calling for help the next morning, which triggered a response from TCSAR. Volunteers found the men walking on the road and gave them a lift back to SAR HQ in Jackson. Once there, the men found a Forest Service ranger waiting with a stern lecture, but alas, no treasure.

**POSSIBLE SWIFTWATER RESPONSE AT SWINGING BRIDGE**

APRIL 23, 2025 @11:49AM

**DURATION:** 2 hours, 11 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 7

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was notified by sheriff deputies for a potential swiftwater response at Swinging

Bridge. The deputies were monitoring a subject on the bridge who was threatening to jump in the river. The SAR team staged a jet boat with volunteers at the Von Gontard Landing to respond if necessary. Deputies on scene de-escalated the situation and the team stood down.

**MISSING PERSON IN LITTLE HORSE CREEK CANYON**

MAY 01, 2025 @11:42AM

**DURATION:** 26 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 9

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The SAR Board was paged for a missing 11-year-old boy near the South Feed Grounds. The boy left camp planning to meet his brothers at Horse Creek, but hadn't been seen for a few hours. About 45 minutes after the call, the parents found the boy and the call stood down.

**SWIFTWATER STANDBY AT ASTORIA**

MAY 04, 2025 @5:44PM

**DURATION:** 4 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 9

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The SAR Board was notified of a possible swiftwater response for a female who had flipped her kayak near Astoria Hot Springs. The woman was able to get herself to the riverbank and the call stood down.

**SPEED WING CRASH AT HORSETHIEF CANYON**

MAY 07, 2025 @5:38PM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 2 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 19

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A 26-year-old local male became injured after crashing during a speed-wing flight south of Jackson. Unlike a typical paraglider, a speed wing is a small, lightweight flying setup that is intended to be flown at high speeds in close proximity to the ground or other features. In this case, it appeared that the man had crash landed near the bottom of the mountain near Horsethief Canyon.

An emergency call was placed, prompting a response from TCSAR. The team drove to the base of Horsethief and accessed the patient by foot, about a 10-minute jaunt from the parking lot. The team assessed the man's condition, placed him in the wheeled litter, and transported him out of the backcountry. A family member then drove the patient to higher medical care.

**CAPSIZED KAYAK NEAR ASTORIA**

MAY 10, 2025 @5:28PM

**DURATION:** 9 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The SAR Board was paged after a kayak carrying four people capsized upriver of Astoria Hot Springs. All four people were able to swim ashore, and the call stood down.

**STRANDED MOTORISTS AT CAVE FALLS**

DATE: MAY 15, 2025 @10:00AM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 48 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 6 • YNP & Fremont County, Idaho, Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was alerted after a 911 call dropped near the Cave Falls Campground in the northwest corner of Teton County. A Yellowstone National Park ranger in the area drove to the site to check on the campers. A deputy from Fremont County, Idaho, also responded and contacted the party. They were stuck but otherwise OK. The SAR Board stood down.

**SEMI-TRUCK HAULING POTATOES ON TETON PASS**

MAY 23, 2025 @10:08PM

**DURATION:** 25 minutes**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** TCSAR was alerted for a possible response after receiving an alert that a semi-truck hauling potatoes had gone off the highway on Teton Pass. The team stood down after a sheriff deputy investigated and determined that no SAR response was needed because the driver of the semi had successfully steered their rig into the truck-arrester.

**INJURED MOUNTAIN BIKER ON PARALLEL TRAIL**

MAY 23, 2025 @1:00PM

**DURATION:** 4 hours**ATTENDEES:** 15

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A 16-year-old local male sustained injuries when he crashed his mountain bike on the Parallel Trail on Teton Pass. Parallel is a downhill-specific bike trail with several jumps, some of which have mandatory gaps.

At approximately 1 p.m., an emergency call was placed to 911, and dispatch paged Teton County Search & Rescue. Volunteers drove a truck to the Old Pass Road,

while other volunteers responded to a brake-check pullout above the trail on Hwy 22.

Approaching the scene on foot, volunteers reached the patient at about 1:30 p.m. They assessed his injuries and packaged him in the wheeled litter. The team then transported the patient in the wheeled litter for about a half mile down Parallel to a waiting ambulance at the Old Pass Road trailhead. Thanks to the help from Jackson Hole Fire/EMS for the coordinated response to this incident.

This was the first mountain bike rescue of the summer season for Teton County Search & Rescue.



PHOTO: TCSAR

**INJURED HORSEBACK RIDER AT TETON VILLAGE**

MAY 24, 2025 @2:09PM

**DURATION:** 56 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** A 56-year-old female was injured after being thrown from a horse near Teton Village. An ambulance from Jackson Hole Fire/EMS was able to drive right to the patient, and the SAR Board stood down.

**MISSING CHILDREN IN DARBY CANYON**

MAY 25, 2025 @9:50PM

**DURATION:** 39 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 5

**WHAT HAPPENED:** After three juveniles were reported overdue from a bike ride on the Aspen Trail near Darby Canyon, TCSAR mobilized for a response. As the team was assembling, the parents called to say the kids had returned. One of them had crashed on their bike and so had to walk out, causing the delay. The team stood down.

**OVERDUE BEAR HUNTERS IN THE GROS VENTRE**

MAY 26, 2025 @11:28PM

**DURATION:** 21 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 10

**WHAT HAPPENED:** The SAR Board was notified of two bear hunters who were overdue in the Gros Ventre Mountains. While the board was discussing options, the reporting party called to say the hunters had returned.

**INJURED MOUNTAIN BIKER ON PARALLEL TRAIL**

MAY 27, 2025 @4:37PM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 53 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 13

**WHAT HAPPENED:** For the second time in four days, Teton County Search & Rescue was called out to help an injured mountain biker on the Parallel Trail on Teton Pass. This time the patient was a 39-year-old local male who washed out on his bike while navigating a berm turn after a jump. The patient sustained a severe lower leg injury in the process. He called 911 at about 4:37 p.m., which initiated an emergency response.

TCSAR volunteers responded to the Old Pass Road and a truck pull-out above the trail on Hwy 22. Volunteers arrived on foot and provided treatment in the field to alleviate pain and discomfort. The team then packaged the patient in the wheeled litter and transported him down the trail to a waiting ambulance from Jackson Hole Fire/EMS.

**GTNP HELI ASSIST IN GRANITE CANYON**

MAY 29, 2025 @8:20PM

**DURATION:** 1 hour, 25 minutes

**ATTENDEES:** 11 • GTNP Helicopter Assist

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Grand Teton National Park requested helicopter assistance from TCSAR to respond to a backpacker having a medical issue in Granite Canyon. The SAR pilot flew the ship to Lupine Meadows and picked up two Jenny Lake Rangers. The team found the patient in Granite and loaded him internally. The heli then flew the patient to a waiting ambulance at the TCSAR headquarters in Jackson.



**THANK YOU**

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERSHIPS THAT HELP OUR TEAM TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE FIELD.

TETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE & DISPATCH

FREMONT COUNTY SAR

GTNP JENNY LAKE CLIMBING RANGERS

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

JACKSON HOLE FIRE/EMS

JHMR SKI & MOUNTAIN PATROL

LINCOLN COUNTY SAR

STAR VALLEY SAR

TETON COUNTY IDAHO SAR TIP TOP SAR

SNOW KING MOUNTAIN

GRAND TARGHEE SKI & BIKE PATROL

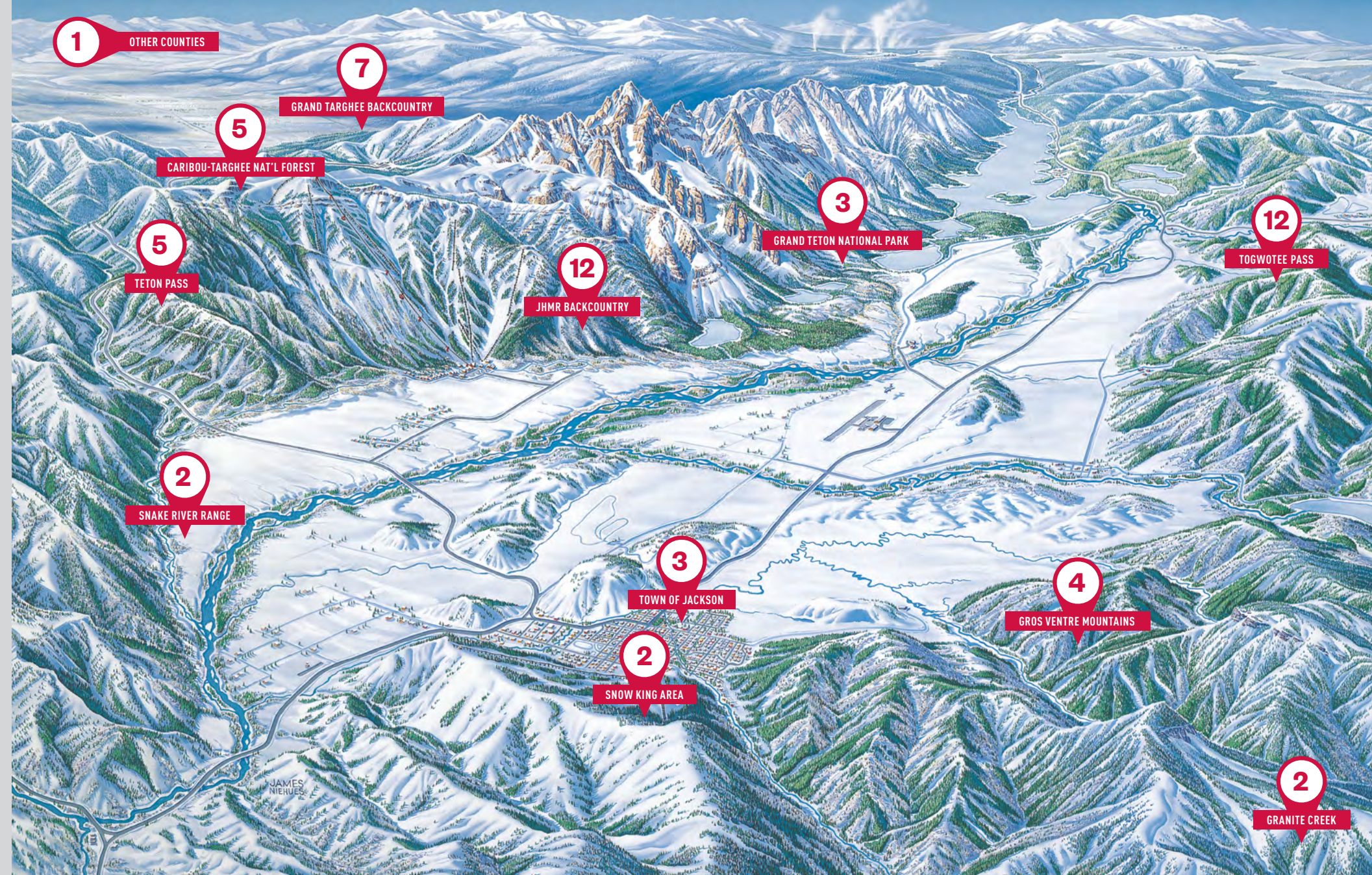
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRIDGER-TETON AVALANCHE CENTER

TOGWOTEE MOUNTAIN LODGE



**SEARCH & RESCUE LOCATIONS DECEMBER 01, 2024—MAY 31, 2025**



# WHEN DARKNESS FALLS

## THIS WINTER WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THE MANY SNOWMOBILE RESCUES THAT WENT DEEP INTO THE NIGHT

Teton County Search & Rescue has always had snowmobilers in their sights during the unforgiving Jackson Hole winters. In the last 10 years, snowmobilers have consistently been one of the most frequently rescued groups of backcountry users for our area. Year-round, they rank behind hikers and skiers/snowboarders.

This past season, TCSAR received 17 calls for help from injured, stranded, or stuck

snowmachiners, with most being on or around Togwotee Pass. Many of these calls were solved or assisted by Togwotee Mountain Guides.

What was unusual about this past season was the high volume of late-night rescues for snowmobilers. Of the 17 calls, five led to missions that stretched into the night and even into the next morning.

“The helicopter is the great equalizer,” says Cody Lockhart, TCSAR Chief Advisor. “If you have a helicopter, you don’t have to be an expert skier to rescue a skier, or be an expert snowmobiler if you are rescuing a snowmobiler. But the helicopter can’t fly at night. And so this winter was the exception to that rule. If we don’t have access to the helicopter, we have to have the on-the-ground technical skills to get the job done.”

Those skills were put to the test during these all-night epics, when the volunteers faced blowing snow, low visibility, and natural terrain hazards.

The wildness of Wyoming has a particular allure, and TCSAR is aware that accidents happen. Reflecting on past incidents, however, can help the team and backcountry users plan accordingly and possibly prevent such incidents from occurring next winter.

In one incident, a man and woman had gotten their sled stuck after intending to go on an evening pleasure cruise. When the couple decided to walk out, they left their machine behind and one of them lost a boot while postholing in the deep snow. The emergency call came in at 1:30 a.m. on February 17.

After getting the call, a small group of volunteers climbed out of bed, loaded up some sleds on a trailer, and drove into the night to the trailhead. Then they motored their snowmobiles up a trail and eventually found the stranded couple. The volunteers gave them a ride out of the backcountry and arrived back at SAR HQ around 5:30 a.m.

As with all rescue trends, it’s difficult to pinpoint one particular reason for how and why such incidents occur. But in many—though not all—of these cases, it appeared that snowmobilers were heading out late in the day into conditions that deteriorated or ended up being too challenging for the user’s ability.

“If there was a theme for most of these incidents it’s that people were heading into terrain and conditions that exceeded their ability,” says TCSAR volunteer Doug Van Houten, a rider who gets in nearly 50 days of backcountry snowmobiling each winter. “The kind of stuff you can get out of on a modern sled is impressive. But as you get more fatigued, and things start to go bad, you get more tired, and then things get progressively worse.”

Van Houten also stressed the importance of snowmachiners being familiar with how their chosen sled works. A trail sled, for instance, is intended for groomed trails. Van Houten points out that taking a trail sled off a groomed track and into deep powder just a few feet off the trail can cause significant mobility issues. This can lead to serious problems if you’re 10 miles into the backcountry and lack essential safety gear.

If the hour is late and weather moves in, that could be a recipe for a long night for everyone involved. “Just like anything, there’s a learning curve on these snowmachines,” Van Houten says. “There are days to push yourself, and days to keep it mellow.”

# TRENCHTOWN

**17 SNOWMOBILE RESCUES IN 2024-25 WINTER**  
**5 NIGHT RESCUES FOR STUCK SNOWMOBILERS**

TOGWOTEE  
PASS  
**8**

GROS VENTRE  
MOUNTAINS  
**1**

CARIBOU-  
TARGHEE NF  
**2**

FREMONT  
COUNTY  
**1\***

MUNGER  
MOUNTAIN  
**2**

BRIDGER-  
TETON NF  
**3**



## NOW YOU KNOW: TIPS FOR A SAFE SNOWMOBILE ADVENTURE

CHECK THE DAILY AVALANCHE FORECAST FROM  
THE BRIDGER-TETON AVALANCHE CENTER.



HAVE A PLAN AND CARRY THE  
PROPER SAFETY EQUIPMENT.



KNOW YOUR ABILITY LEVEL  
AND CONDITIONS.



KNOW HOW YOUR MACHINE OPERATES.



ESTABLISH A ‘TURN-AROUND TIME’  
FOR YOUR GROUP, AND STICK TO IT.



IF YOU NEED HELP, OR EVEN THINK YOU MIGHT  
NEED HELP, INITIATE AN EMERGENCY CALL  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE’S NO SHAME IN  
CALLING FOR HELP. CALLING EARLY ALLOWS A  
SAR TEAM AMPLE TIME TO DEVELOP A  
RESCUE PLAN.



# GOT A NEW iPhone?

## HERE'S HOW YOU USE THE SATELLITE SOS DURING AN EMERGENCY

In the winter of 2024-25, Teton County Search & Rescue responded to five rescues that were initiated by a reporting party using the Apple iPhone's new satellite SOS function.

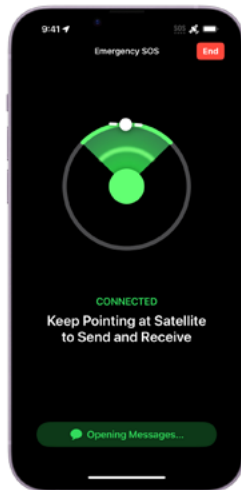
This new technology has proven to be a useful method to alert emergency personnel. But it's not automatic, and there are several things you should be familiar with before you are forced to do so during the stress of an incident.

First, the most important thing to know about texting 911 via satellite is that you must initiate the text. That is, the reporting party must successfully send the text in order to receive a response—whether that's a family member, dispatch, or SAR personnel.

Apple's satellite text function was introduced in the iPhone 14, released in 2022, and is available in all new iPhones with the IOS 18 update. When activated outside of cellular range, the device connects the user to the nearest satellite in order to send an emergency text message, which is then routed to the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center. Apple encourages iPhone users to set up a Medical ID and emergency contacts that are included in a SOS text.

Successful transmission depends on the location of the user in relation to the satellite. During the chaos of an emergency, it's easy to appreciate how complicated this procedure can be, especially if you've never used it before.

For those equipped with a new iPhone, please familiarize yourself with its functionality, and then remember to include the following info during an emergency.



### WHEN TEXTING 911 VIA SATELLITE WITH YOUR iPhone, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- + NATURE OF EMERGENCY & NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY.
- + MECHANISM OF ACTIVITY (HIKE, SKI, SNOWMOBILE, ETC.)
- + ANYTHING SAR SHOULD KNOW (PREVIOUS MEDICAL HISTORY, ALLERGIES, OTHER HAZARDS, ETC.)

#### AND PLEASE REMEMBER:

- + MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF THE SKY & HORIZON.
- + SATELLITE TRANSMISSION IS NOT AUTOMATIC.
- + SAR RESPONSE MAY TAKE SOME TIME.
- + WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS VIA TEXT FROM THE 911 DISPATCH CENTER.



TO HEAR A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF HOW A STRANDED SNOWMOBILER USED HIS iPhone TO COMMUNICATE WITH RESCUERS THIS WINTER, TUNE INTO SEASON 9 OF **THE FINE LINE.** AVAILABLE WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS.



## TETON COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE DONOR CIRCLE

The TCSAR Donor Circle is a leadership giving society for our donors wishing to support Teton County Search & Rescue with gifts of \$1 or more annually. A commitment of three years or more will qualify you for membership in the Shriver Society, honoring

Ray Shriver's 20 years of commitment to this team. At TCSAR we value every gift—no matter the size.

The Donor Circle officially launched in 2024, with numerous members attending custom backcountry tours, TCSAR hangar visits, and other unique donor benefits. This winter, tours included a backcountry ski tour on Teton Pass and a snowshoe tour in Grand Teton National Park. More tours are planned for summer 2025.

Please go to [TetonCountySAR.org/donor-circle](https://TetonCountySAR.org/donor-circle) to get involved and see a full list of membership benefits.



One of the benefits of being a member of the TCSAR Donor Circle is the opportunity to join board members, staff and volunteers on a backcountry outing. Here, TCSAR Foundation board members Dana Macy, Fio Lazarte, and Sarah Adams head out for an adventure in Grand Teton National Park.

I had the great privilege of participating in an alpine tour on Teton Pass this winter with several volunteers and staff of TCSAR Foundation, as well as a pair of Jackson Hole's finest guides.

We had a ton of fun and skied some great lines.

After hearing some hair-raising stories and learning things like what a volunteer carries in her pack on a rescue, the main takeaway for me was how fortunate we are here in Jackson Hole. The level of expertise and dedication of the TCSAR volunteers is truly incredible. The fact that they are ready at a moment's notice to come rescue anyone who has gotten into trouble is something we shouldn't take for granted. I am profoundly grateful to them.

—KATHY GROSS  
DONOR CIRCLE MEMBER



SCAN TO GIVE: [TCSAR.KINDFUL.COM](https://TCSAR.KINDFUL.COM)



## 2025 WISH LIST HELP SUPPORT WHAT SAVES LIVES

Every mission our team undertakes is powered by training, commitment—and the right gear. The TOSAR Foundation’s Wish List features high-priority items identified by our rescuers to help them respond faster, safer, and more effectively in the field. From life-saving medical equipment to rugged vehicles for remote access, each item on the list directly supports Teton County Search & Rescue operations.

You can make an immediate difference by funding all or part of a Wish List item. Together, we can ensure our team is equipped for whatever the mountains throw their way.

To help support our volunteers, please contact TOSAR Foundation Development Officer Connor Nolan: [connor@tetoncountyar.org](mailto:connor@tetoncountyar.org).

### **\$35,000** Polaris Xpedition

This versatile off-road vehicle allows TOSAR to respond more quickly in the backcountry and ensures fast access across rugged terrain.

### **\$28,000** Polaris Mountain Snowmobiles x 2

These two specialized snowmobiles are designed for mountain rescue—allowing our team to quickly reach injured parties, haul gear, and maintain safety during extreme winter conditions.

### **\$4,000** Y Lanyards Short Haul x2

These high-strength, redundant Y-lanyards are essential life-support tools during helicopter short-haul operations. New units ensure the safety of both rescuers and patients during aerial extractions.

### **\$5,600** Zoll AED Pro

This rugged, portable defibrillator is built to handle the rigors of backcountry missions. It delivers critical life-saving treatment in cardiac emergencies and includes real-time CPR feedback.

### **\$10,800** Polaris Ride Command Displays

Ride Command touchscreen units provide real-time terrain and trail maps, as well as live GPS locations between operators, allowing rescuers to track one another across the backcountry.

### **\$9,000** Tempus LS Advanced AED Monitor

Combining diagnostics, monitoring, and defibrillation into one compact unit, the Tempus LS provides field teams with vital patient data during remote rescues.

### **\$3,600** Advanced Avalanche Education x 6

Six volunteers will pursue advanced avalanche coursework—deepening their understanding of snow science, terrain assessment, and risk management.

### **\$6,000** Swiftwater Certification Course x 12

Twelve volunteers will become certified in swiftwater rescue—learning to read rivers, navigate currents, and safely perform rescues on our local waters.

### **\$8,400** Team Training Dinners

These meals offer more than calories—they build trust, strengthen relationships, and lay the foundation for safer, more cohesive teamwork in the field.

### **\$12,200** Avalanche Transceivers x 40

Reliable, updated avalanche beacons are critical to locating both victims and rescuers in the event of a slide. Equipping every team member ensures everyone is both protected and capable of saving lives in winter terrain.

### **\$2,700** Climbing Helmets

These new helmets replace aging models and meet current safety standards. They protect against head injuries during rockfall, technical ropework, and confined-space operations.

### **\$6,650** Next Level Snowmobile Training x 7

Advanced training gives seven operators the skills to handle extreme terrain. From steep ascents to avalanche fields, this course teaches rescue-specific riding skills that elevate our winter response.

### **\$10,000** Advanced Rigging Training x 10

Ten volunteers will receive advanced instruction in high-angle rescue systems. This training builds team-wide expertise in the precision techniques that save lives when every anchor counts.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONOR CIRCLE MEMBERS:

## CHAMPION \$100,000+ Annually

Ann Cornell

## PILLAR \$25,000+ Annually

Mithun Family Foundation

Gretchen & John Petrakis

Marina, Greg and Bear Olafson

Robin Davis & Scott Segal

## LEADER \$10,000+ Annually

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## AMBASSADOR \$5,000+ Annually

Tailwind Foundation

Stephen P. Adamson Jr. Memorial Fund

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Mary & Dan Armour

Phoebe & Gray Muzzy

Raintree Foundation

Sheana Ullissi & Nina Berlin Rubin

Stephanie Williams

Susan & Richard Sugden

Whiteley & Nick Wheeler

Jill & Robert Thomas

Kathy and Mark Gross

# AN UPDATED ROAD MAP FOR BACKCOUNTRY ZERO

RE-VAMPED MISSION = RE-ENERGIZED SUCCESS



In the past year, TCSAR Foundation has worked diligently behind the scenes to re-establish our commitment to Backcountry Zero, our Preventative Search & Rescue program. After analyzing rescue data and surveying nearly 500 people in the community, we created a revamped framework to

help lead us to a successful and sustainable program that reaches everyone in our community who wants backcountry safety education—no matter their background. This is a snapshot of where we've been, and what we learned to help us move forward. Read the entire report at [TetonCountySAR.org](https://TetonCountySAR.org).

## MISSION

Backcountry Zero, the Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) program of the Teton County Search and Rescue Foundation, empowers our community with the skills, knowledge and resources to prevent incidents and fatalities in the backcountry.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Born from the heartbreak of preventable tragedies, Backcountry Zero has spent the past decade transforming local backcountry culture. What started as a vision to eliminate fatalities has grown into a powerhouse of hands-on training, virtual tools, ambassador programs, and data-driven education. The safest rescue? The one that never has to happen.

## OUR GUIDING VALUES



ACCESSIBILITY



HIGH-QUALITY  
EDUCATION



DATA-DRIVEN  
RELEVANCE



ACCOUNTABILITY



EMPOWERED  
DECISION-MAKING

# OUR VALUES IN ACTION:

## A GLIMPSE INTO 6 MONTHS OF FREE BC ZERO PROGRAMMING

*If our rescues are free, our prevention efforts should be, too.*

Youth 'What's In Your Pack?' **38 kids**

Moto Avalanche Night  
**65 motorized backcountry users**

Teen Wilderness Medicine and Incident Response  
**46 high schoolers**

State of the Snowpack Series 1-6  
**Over 300 recreationists + professionals**

Spanish Avalanche Awareness Night  
**89 Spanish-speaking backcountry users**

Avalanche Workshop  
**68 backcountry skiers, riders + snowmobilers**

3-Day Avalanche Skills Workshop for Women **61 women**

Post-Avalanche Resuscitation  
**42 backcountry users**

Controversies in Medical Response + Avalanche Rescue for Guides and Industry Professionals  
**48 first responders, guides, + avalanche professionals**

Managing Mental Health and Trauma in the Mountains  
**83 clinicians, first responders, + recreationists**

Mountain Bike Maintenance + Preparedness **17 bikers**

What's In Your Saddle Bags?  
**57 outfitters, wranglers, horse packers + hunters**

Women's Swiftwater Rescue Scholarship Award **12 women**

The Fine Line Podcast **9 Seasons**



SCAN FOR  
PROGRAMMING  
SCHEDULE

# WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR INCREDIBLE SPONSORS & PARTNERS

TCSAR is honored to be part of a supportive, connected community. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our partners and the shared commitment to helping one another thrive.



## TCSAR PARTNERS

Arc'teryx  
Bank of Jackson Hole  
Copyworks  
Grand Targhee Resort  
Healthy Being Juicery  
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort  
JH Travel & Tourism Board  
Kate's Real Food  
Long Reimer Winegar Beppler  
Mammut  
Momentous  
New West Knifeworks  
NoSo Patches  
Pearl St. Bagels  
Raintree Foundation  
Roadhouse Brewing Co.  
RPK3 Law  
Snake River Brewing  
Snake River Roasting Co.  
Snow King Mountain  
Snow King Resort  
STEP  
Stio  
Teton County Sheriff's Office  
The Liquor Store  
Trilipiderm  
Yeti

## EDUCATION PARTNERS

Arc'teryx  
Architecture Stone and Tile  
Black Diamond  
Black Fox Rescue  
Bridger Teton Avalanche Center & Foundation  
Central Wyoming College  
Darwin Ranch  
Exum Mountain Guides  
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Grand Teton National Park Foundation  
Headwall Sports  
Jackson Hole Mountain Guides  
Open Range Cycles  
Pendergraft Outfitters  
RECCO  
Rendezvu Outdoor Gear + Guides  
Roadhouse Brewing Co.  
Skinny Skis  
Stephen Adamson Jr. Memorial Fund  
Steve Romeo Memorial Fund  
Stio  
Teton Backcountry Rentals  
Teton County Sheriff's Office  
Wounded Bear Medicine  
Velo 22

## MEAL PARTNERS

Blue Collar Restaurant Group  
Calico  
Fine Dining Restaurant Group  
Grand Teton Lodge Co.  
Jedadiah's Catering  
King Sushi  
Lockhart Cattle Co.  
Nora's  
Pica's  
Picnic/Persephone  
Sweet Cheeks Meats  
Yeah Buddy Pizza

## GEAR PARTNERS

Arc'teryx  
Astral Designs  
Backcountry Access  
Black Diamond Equipment  
Blizzard/Tecnica  
Cascade Designs  
CMC Rescue  
Flylow  
Icebreaker  
Immersion Research  
Mammut  
NRS

Outdoor Research  
Patagonia  
Petzl  
Rossignol/Dynastar  
Stio  
Team Wendy  
The North Face

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AMPL  
Bridger-Teton National Forest  
Community Foundation of Jackson Hole  
Coombs Outdoors  
Friends of Pathways  
Jackson Hole Fire EMS Foundation  
Jackson Hole Ski & Snowboard Club  
KHOL  
Mountain Bike the Tetons  
Snake River Fund  
Teton Backcountry Alliance  
The Mountain Riding Lab  
Women in the Tetons  
WYDOT Avalanche Department



The mission of the Teton County Search & Rescue Foundation is to support TCSAR through direct volunteer support, community education, and advocacy.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**MADDIE JOHNSON**  
PREVENTATIVE SAR MANAGER

**ANDRÉE DEAN**  
OPERATIONS MANAGER

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Dear Friends,

Here in Teton County, we pride ourselves on showing up for each other—whether it's pushing someone's car out of a snowbank, delivering soup to a friend with the flu, or, in Teton County Search & Rescue's case, flying a helicopter into the mountains to rescue a stranger. It's part of the DNA of this community. But what's even more powerful than neighbors helping neighbors after something goes wrong? Helping them avoid trouble in the first place.

That's the heart of Backcountry Zero, our community's prevention-focused education campaign. It's the quieter side of Search & Rescue—the side that works to reduce the number of emergencies before they begin. It's where we share stories (like those on The Fine Line podcast), host clinics through our Risk Management Series, bring the community together at WYSAW, and even publish this very Rescue Report—all to help people make better decisions in the backcountry.

This year, we sharpened our focus with a newly developed strategic program plan for Backcountry Zero. We started by listening—surveying you, our community, to learn what educational tools resonate most. Then, we combined your feedback with the real data from our team's SAR missions to develop smarter, more relevant programming. The result? Education efforts that are timely, community-informed, and mission-driven.

And here's something we're especially proud of: Every one of our Risk Management Series classes is now completely free, just like the team's rescues. Knowledge should never be behind a paywall—especially when it can save a life.

Our SAR team members are the quiet heroes behind all this. When they're not volunteering to rescue someone on the side of a mountain, they're volunteering to teach clinics, record podcast episodes, and share their hard-earned wisdom at WYSAW. They do it because they care deeply. About you. About this place. About making sure we're all a little safer, a little smarter, and a little more prepared.

So, from the bottom of my heart—and on behalf of the entire board—I want to thank you. Thank you for valuing this work. Thank you for being the kind of community that doesn't just wait for the call—but works together to prevent the call in the first place.

With gratitude,  
Hugh O'Halloran  
BOARD PRESIDENT,

TETON COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE FOUNDATION





**TCSAR FOUNDATION**

PO Box 1063 | Jackson, WY 83001

info@tetoncountysar.org | 307.204.3775



PHOTO: ANTHONY PECCHI