

## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

With a record number of calls for service in 2022, it has been a demanding year for our team of TCSAR volunteers. Through November, we have had 123 calls for service; our previous record for the whole calendar year was 105, in 2021. As always, we have had a wide array of calls: This past summer we responded to bike wrecks, horse wrecks, injured or tired hikers, backpackers and runners, swiftwater emergencies, lost folks, a tragic lightning strike, and various other backcountry emergencies.

Not only have we had a large call volume, but the severity of the injuries seems to be more intense and life threatening. To date, we have used a helicopter 44 times in 2022 to respond to those in need. This is almost double our previous annual high for helicopter use. Typically, we use a helicopter when a traditional ground-based rescue is too dangerous for the rescuers and patients, or the urgency of the incident requires us to look for the most rapid response option.

Increasing helicopter rescues have led us to a big change taking place at TCSAR. This past summer we launched Mission Critical: a capital campaign intended to provide TCSAR its own year-round helicopter, and run its own helicopter program. This is a big deal for the team.

For those who are unclear about our current use of helicopters in Teton County, here is some background. For eight months a year (October – May), we rent a helicopter and pilot. Over the years, we have rented ships from many different companies. The other four months of the year, we borrow helicopters, mostly from the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. With the continued increase in the number of rescues and the continued complexities of renting and borrowing helicopters, the TCSAR team feels that it is time to take control of our own destiny with this important rescue tool. A solid helicopter resource is critical for us to provide a high-level of rescue service to the community. We are excited about what this program will bring to our valley. In 2023, we will be asking for your support to help make this happen.

The increased volume of calls and taking on a helicopter program have been daunting, and at times overwhelming, but somehow our team always figures it out and pulls it off. I find amazing that as call volume increases, volunteer response to rescues has also increased on both a percentage and numeric level. It is clear that TCSAR volunteers want to help those in need in Jackson Hole and surrounding areas. Our team takes service seriously, and is committed to any challenge put in front of them.

Cody Lockhart TCSAR Chief Advisor Volunteer #84

## TCSO SAR ADVISORS AND STAFF

CODY LOCKHART, CHIEF ADVISOR

AJ WHEELER, M.D., MEDICAL ADVISOR

DOUG VAN HOUTEN, LOGISTICS ADVISOR

GALEN PARKE. PLANNING ADVISOR

KC BESS, MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR
ANTHONY STEVENS, TRAINING ADVISOR
MIKE ESTES, TCSO SAR COORDINATOR
MATT CARR. TCSO SHERIFF

TCSAR volunteers are ready to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Since its inception in 1993, our volunteers have spent thousands of hours honing their skills in all areas of rescue procedures, as well as donating their time at community events to increase backcountry safety awareness.

FROM
DECEMBER 1, 2021 - NOVEMBER 30, 2022
TCSAR VOLUNTEERS SPENT
10,760 HOURS
ON SAR-RELATED ACTIVITIES

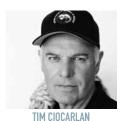
RESCUES = 5,246 HOURS TRAINING = 5,006 HOURS COMMUNITY EVENTS = 508 HOURS

## TCSAR VOLUNTEER

### **TEAM MEMBERS**











RYAN COMBS

**TOBIN DENNIS** 

















**ASHLEY DIDION** 

ETHAN LOBDELL











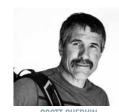












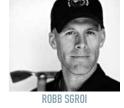
















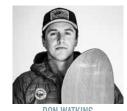
























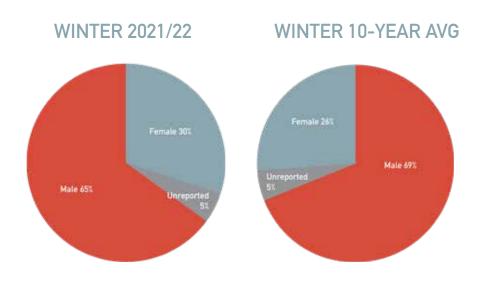




TCSO SAR COORDINATOR

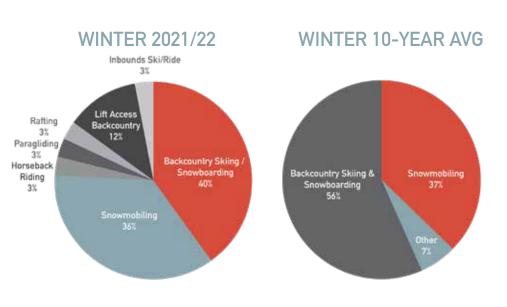
TCSO SHERIFF

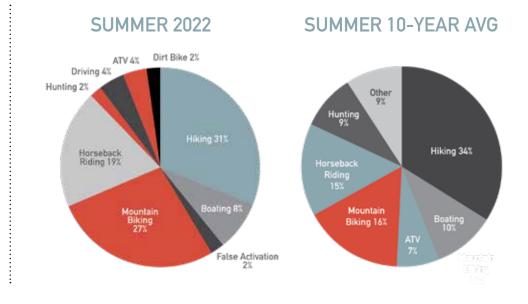
### INCIDENTS BY GENDER





### **INCIDENTS BY ACTIVITY -**





#### How to call Search and Rescue?

Dial or text 911. 911 calls in Teton County go to local dispatch, which then contacts the TCSAR Board of Advisors to formulate a rescue plan.

Handheld satellite devices, such as SPOT or Garmin inReach, have SOS capabilities that allow the user to connect with (IERCC), which can then connect to local dispatch.

BackcountrySOS is a free app developed by TCSAR Foundation that acts as a text to 911 with minimal cell service. These notifications go directly to dispatch. The app is available in 12 counties across the Intermountain West and provides emergency responders with your exact location.

#### What should you say when you call 911?

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

## **Summer 2022 RESCUE REVIEW**

#### » JUNE

RESCUE **Lost Mushroom Picker near Grand Targhee** 

DATE 6/1/22 TIME 12:42 p.m. 1 hours, 16 minutes DURATION **ATTENDEES** 7 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? Dispatch was called for a 42-year-old female who split up with her friends and went uphill looking for mushrooms near the Targhee Road overlook. The TCSAR Board of Advisors (BOA) called while dispatch asked the cell phone carrier to ping the woman's phone. Dispatch was finally able to get a ping and put the phone between Felt and Ashton, Idaho.

The woman's friend called the BOA to confirm that they had found her coming out of Alta, and the call stood down.

RESCUE Injured Mountain Biker on Teton Pass

DATE 6/4/22 TIME 2:44 p.m. DURATION 2 hours, 3 minutes **ATTENDEES** 20 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? On the first Saturday in June, a male mountain biker crashed while descending the Parallel Trail on Teton Pass. The accident left him with a severely injured ankle, rendering him unable to walk or ride. TCSAR got the call at 2:44 p.m. and responded with the RZR and a forward ops truck, with several volunteers accessing the trail via the Old Pass Road. On scene, TCSAR volunteers assessed the patient and immobilized his injury. They then loaded the patient into the wheeled litter and transported him down the trail to a waiting ambulance.

RESCUE Injured Dirt Biker up Mosquito Creek

DATE 6/7/22 5:29 p.m. TIME

2 hours, 31 minutes DURATION **ATTENDEES** 21 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR received an alert about a man who had crashed on his motorcycle about four miles up the Mosquito Creek drainage. The patient had reportedly suffered lower leg injuries and was unable to walk or ride out of the backcountry. Four TCSAR volunteers responded in the RZR and were able to access the patient directly. They assessed the patient's multiple injuries and packaged him for transport in the RZR. They then drove the patient out of the backcountry and transferred him to a waiting ambulance.

**Injured Mountain Biker on Teton Pass** RESCUE

DATE 6/8/22 TIME 2:20 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 41 minutes **ATTENDEES** 18 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A female mountain biker crashed on the Fuzzy Bunny Trail on Teton Pass and reported severe pain in her shoulder, flank, abdomen, and spine. TCSAR dispatched with teams in two SAR vehicles directly up the Old Pass Road. Once they arrived at the patient, the team assessed her injuries and packaged her for transport in the wheeled litter. The team wheeled her about a half mile to a waiting ambulance.

**RESCUE Overturned Kayak near Astoria Hot Springs** 

DATE 6/13/22 TIME 9:08 p.m. DURATION 13 minutes **ATTENDEES** 6 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? Dispatch was called regarding an overturned kayak near the Astoria Bridge. The reporting party (RP) had watched the kayak for about five minutes. The BOA was notified and gathered for a conference call. The RP called dispatch to say that they heard from some kids that they had lost their kayak. The BOA held off on responding further.

RESCUE **Missing Person Teton Campground** 

DATE 6/18/22 TIME 12:21 p.m. DURATION 2 hours, 41 minutes **ATTENDEES** 7 team members **BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was given notice that a woman from

THANK YOU: We are grateful for the partnerships that help our team to be successful in the field. Thank you to Teton County Sheriff's Office and Dispatch, GTNP Jenny Lake Climbing Rangers, USFS Blackrock Ranger District, Jackson Hole Fire/EMS, JHMR Ski and Mountain Patrol, Grand Targhee Ski and Bike Patrol, Snow King Mountain, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Bridger-Teton Avalanche Center, and Togwotee Mountain Lodge.

TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 5 www.tetoncountysar.org



California called dispatch to say she had not heard from her son in 12 hours. The incident was resolved after a U.S. Forest Service employee located the son's vehicle at the Teton Campground and left a note to tell the man to call home.

RESCUE

DATE TIME DURATION **ATTENDEES** INTERAGENCY **Boating Fatality on Gros Ventre River** 

6/21/22 5:48 p.m.

4 hours, 12 minutes 20 team members



WHAT HAPPENED? An emergency call to Teton County Dispatch reported that a pair of two-person catarafts had launched onto the whitewater stretch below Lower Slide Lake, and that one of the crafts had flipped near the rapid known as Hermit. One person was able to recover and climb back onto the craft, while the other continued downstream. The remaining members of the party attempted to chase their companion down the river, but were unable to retrieve him.

TCSAR volunteers responded to the site with swiftwater teams on foot and in catarafts, and deployed an aerial drone. Grand Teton National Park dispatched a team of Jenny Lake Rangers and the interagency helicopter due to the accident's close proximity to the park boundary. Teton County Sheriff Deputies also responded, as did many recreational river users who were already on scene.

The man was reportedly last seen near a large boulder about a quarter mile upriver from the park boundary at a sharp bend known as Jumping Rock. SAR volunteers probed the area but were unable to locate the missing person. Shortly after, a spotter at Jumping Rock saw the man floating downriver. He was unresponsive.

The helicopter was able to follow the man as he floated downriver and eventually became hung up on a log jam about a mile downriver from Jumping Rock. TCSAR volunteers managed to reach the man and bring him to shore. Tragically, he did not survive. His party was visiting from out of state and had been well equipped, prepared and experienced. The man was wearing a PFD.

Horse Accident at Willow Creek RESCUE 6/23/22

DATE TIME 12:18 p.m. DURATION 4 hours, 42 minutes **ATTENDEES** 19 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR volunteers were called to respond to horse accident south of Jackson in the Willow Creek area. A man and woman had been riding their own respective horses when both horses spooked and bucked them off at the same time. The man was able to walk down the mountain to put out the emergency call, indicating that only a female had been injured, and the rescue was set in motion. TCSAR responded with a team in the RZR, with e-mountain bikes as backup. The RZR team navigated rough terrain and drove directly to the patients, discovering that the man was also injured and needed assistance. The volunteers assessed their multiple injuries and transported them out of the backcountry to a waiting ambulance.

RESCUE Overdue Group on Devil's Staircase

DATE 6/24/22 7:19 p.m. TIME DURATION 1 hour 3 minutes **ATTENDEES** 8 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? Teton County, Idaho, dispatch reported that a group of 17 hikers were overdue from a hike to Devil's Staircase. Teton County, Wyoming, dispatch was notified and called TCSAR. Later that evening, Idaho dispatch called Wyoming dispatch to say the party had returned.

Injured Mountain Biker on Ferrin's Trail RESCUE

DATE 6/25/22 TIME 7:20 a.m. DURATION

1 hour. 40 minutes **ATTENDEES** 17 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A female mountain biker crashed and sustained injuries near the top of the Ferrin's Trail. The team responded by driving the RZR up the Snow King access road, where they met the patient at the summit. They transported the patient down the mountain where she self-transported to the hospital. Meanwhile, one SAR member stayed behind and rode the woman's mountain bike out of the backcountry.

RESCUE Horse Accident in Hidden Corral Basin

6/25/22 DATE 11:51 a.m. TIME 5 hours. 8 minutes DURATION 13 team members **ATTENDEES** 

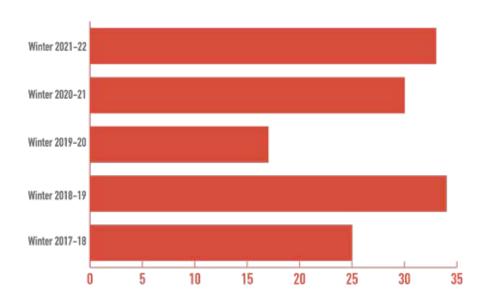
INTERAGENCY

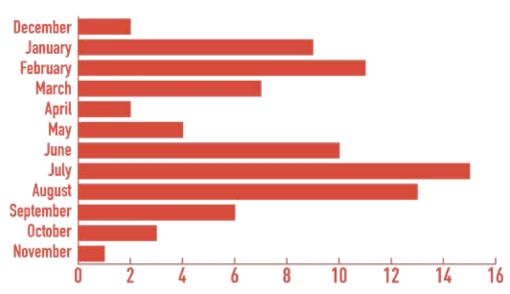
WHAT HAPPENED? A few hours after the team wrapped up the callout on Ferrin's, TCSAR was paged with a SPOT activation from a remote location on the west side of the north Tetons. A woman had fallen from her horse and could not walk or ride. Given the remote nature of the accident, TCSAR requested an interagency helicopter assist and permission to land in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness. With permission granted, the ship flew three TCSAR members and a GTNP ranger to the accident site. Once on the ground, the team assessed the patient's multiple injuries and packaged her for transport. The patient was short-hauled to a lower meadow, where she was then

Cont'd on page 9

### **ACTIVE SAR INCIDENTS PER WINTER**

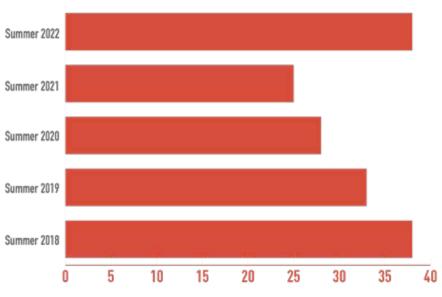
### **INCIDENTS BY MONTH 2021/2022**

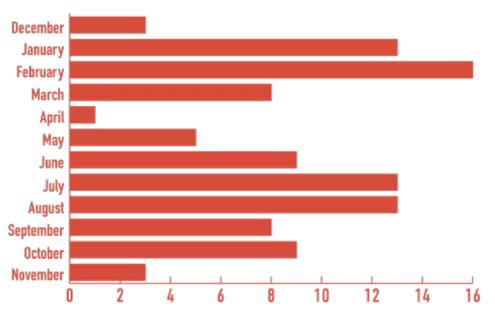




## **ACTIVE SAR INCIDENTS PER SUMMER**

## 10-YEAR AVERAGE BY MONTH





www.tetoncountysar.org TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 7

## SEARCH AND RESCUE LOCATIONS - DECEMBER 1, 2021 - NOVEMBER 30, 2022



#### Cont'd from page 6

loaded into the helicopter for the flight to a waiting ambulance at Lupine Meadows. One TCSAR member remained in the field and rode the patient's horse out of the backcountry.

-----

**RESCUE** Teton Canyon Good Samaritan Mission

DATE 6/26/22 TIME 4:21 p.m.

DURATION 5 hours, 20 minutes ATTENDEES 3 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The Board of Advisors was paged regarding a dog stuck on an island in a creek in Teton Canyon. The reporting party (RP) was concerned that the owner of the dog was going to attempt to retrieve the animal and get swept into the very swift, debris-filled creek. The BOA's response was that TCSAR does not rescue animals. However, some phone calls were made and a couple of SAR members went on a Good Samaritan mission and helped the woman retrieve her dog so she would not attempt to rescue it herself. She called again about an hour later and had located her other dog, which was also stuck midstream a couple hundred yards up from the first dog. SAR members turned around and went back and retrieved the second animal just before dark.

RESCUE Horseback Incident at Spotted Horse Ranch

 DATE
 6/27/22

 TIME
 11:03 a.m.

 DURATION
 43 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 11 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR volunteers were called to help a senior citizen who needed assistance getting out of the backcountry during a horseback ride. During the ride, the man began experiencing lightheadedness and exhaustion and was not able to continue. Wranglers helped him off his horse and waited with him in the shade until help could arrive.

TCSAR responded with teams on foot, e-mountain bikes, and the RZR. When they reached the patient, the volunteers packaged him for transport in the wheeled litter. They transported the man to a waiting ambulance, and the teams returned to the hangar.

\_\_\_\_\_

RESCUE UTV Rollover at Crescent H

DATE 6/30/22 TIME 6:48 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 38 minutes ATTENDEES 17 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was paged to respond to a local male in his mid-30s who had rolled his Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) near Crescent H. The man had sustained an open fracture in his lower left leg and was trapped inside the vehicle. Volunteers arrived on scene via the RZR. They packaged the patient and transported him in the RZR down the mountain to a waiting ambulance.

» JULY

RESCUE Raft Assist at the Wilson Bridge

DATE 7/1/22
TIME 1:00 p.m.
DURATION 2 hours
ATTENDEES 2team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The TCSAR office received a call from the Teton Raptor Center requesting an assist to rescue an injured pelican that had been seen by many passersby near the Wilson Bridge of the Snake River. The river flow was too high and swift for Raptor Center personnel to reach the bird. Two SAR members used a cataraft to row two Raptor Center staff to the pelican. They were able to retrieve the bird and bring it to shore.

RESCUE Injured Hiker at Whetstone Mountain

DATE 7/2/22 TIME 11:39 a.m. DURATION 4 hours 36

DURATION 4 hours, 36 minutes ATTENDEES 14 team members

INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? A woman in her 60s fell while attempting to cross a creek in the Whetstone Mountain area north of Pacific Creek. She experienced significant pain and was unable to walk. It was later learned that she had a broken femur. To alert first responders, the woman's companion hiked three miles out of the backcountry to place a 911 call on a cell phone.



One Sheriff deputy responded to the trailhead, while TCSAR requested the interagency helicopter from the U.S. Forest Service. The helicopter was fighting a fire near Pinedale, but was released to respond to this incident. The helicopter picked up TCSAR personnel and flew to the scene of the accident. Meanwhile, a ground team from TCSAR dispatched to the trailhead as backup. The helicopter team was able to find the patient, assess her injuries, and transport her out of the backcountry to a waiting ambulance.

RESCUE ATV Accident on Shadow Mountain

DATE 7/4/22
TIME 2:10 p.m.
DURATION 2 hours. 50 minutes

ATTENDEES 15 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? Teton County Dispatch received a 911 call with only voices in the background attempting to care for a woman in her early 20s who had been in an ATV accident on Shadow Mountain. The woman was complaining of severe pain in her shoulder. Dispatch paged TCSAR to respond. Volunteers drove to the site in a truck with the RZR on a trailer. On scene, volunteers packaged the patient for transport via wheeled litter to a waiting ambulance at the trailhead.

www.tetoncountysar.org TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 9

RESCUE Tubing Fatality at King's Wave

DATE 7/4/22 TIME 5:20 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 40 minutes ATTENDEES 18team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was paged to respond to a river accident at King's Wave on the Snake River. A young man, who was not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD), had been floating in an innertube when he flipped and was later spotted floating downriver unresponsive. Other river users were able to bring the man to shore and begin CPR. TCSAR responded with teams in the jet boat and a SAR truck. The jet boat was able to access the scene with medical personnel. That team loaded the patient into the jet boat for transport to an ambulance at Lewis Landing. Tragically, the man did not survive the incident.

RESCUE Tired Hikers in Alaska Basin

DATE 7/5/22 TIME 6:11 p.m.

DURATION 10 hours, 11 minutes ATTENDEES 5 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? Two 20-year-old companions called dispatch from Sunrise Lake in Alaska Basin to request support. The female and male reported being too exhausted to continue their hike back to the trailhead. The BOA recommended they



set up camp and rest for the night and continue in the morning. On the next day, they called dispatch again to say they were sore and couldn't carry their packs and wanted someone to come in and carry their gear out for them. The BOA decided to monitor the pair's progress, and eventually, the hikers made it out of the backcountry on their own.

RESCUE Injured Horseback Rider at Darwin Ranch

DATE 7/8/22 TIME 3:01 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 44 minutes ATTENDEES 14 team members

**INTERAGENCY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was paged to respond to a horse accident in the Darwin Ranch area of the Gros Ventre Mountains. A man in his 50s had fallen from his horse and was reportedly experiencing a head injury. Due to the remote location and nature of the injury, TCSAR put in a request to use the interagency helicopter. That request was granted, and TCSAR flew to the scene and packaged the patient for transport inside the helicopter. The patient was then flown to the TCSAR hangar where he was transferred to a waiting ambulance.

RESCUE Missing Paddler on Gros Ventre River

 DATE
 7/9/22

 TIME
 1:50 p.m.

 DURATION
 31 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 12 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was paged for a missing person on the whitewater stretch of the Gros Ventre River between Lower Slide Lake and Jumping Rock, the same stretch of river that had a fatality earlier in the season. The subject, who was on a stand-up paddleboard, had been missing from his party for over an hour as they waited for him to arrive at Jumping Rock. As TCSAR volunteers initiated a swiftwater rescue response, the missing paddler was located and the team stood down.

RESCUE Mountain Bike Accident in Cache Creek

DATE 7/10/22
TIME 1:50 p.m.
DURATION 2 hours, 19 minutes

DURATION 2 nours, 19 minutes
ATTENDEES 10 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A local resident experienced severe injuries after crashing on his mountain bike on the Putt-Putt Trail in Cache Creek. TCSAR initiated a primary response with a volunteer riding to the scene via mountain bike. This volunteer was able to locate the man, assess his injuries, and provide initial patient care. Meanwhile, more volunteers approached in the RZR to the small turnaround about 1.75 miles up the Cache Creek Road. Once the rest of the team arrived, the volunteers packaged the patient for a wheeled litter transport down the trail to the RZR. The team then drove the patient to a waiting ambulance at the trailhead.

RESCUE Injured Hiker at JHMR

 DATE
 7/11/22

 TIME
 1:43 p.m.

 DURATION
 2 hours

 ATTENDEES
 5 team members

INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? A female in her mid-60s injured her ankle while hiking at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. The area in question—near the top of the Hobacks—was too steep to use the wheeled litter, and therefore JHMR Mountain Patrol requested the use of the interagency helicopter to move the patient. TCSAR helped coordinate the request to Teton Interagency Helitack. The ship was available and the request was granted. As mountain patrol arrived on scene to care for the patient, GTNP rangers loaded the patient into the ship and flew her to the LZ at the base of Teton Village. The patient then elected to self-transport to higher care.

**RESCUE** Injured Mountain Biker at Wilson Canyon

DATE 7/13/22 TIME 9:34 a.m.

DURATION 3 hours, 41 minutes
ATTENDEES 24 team members

INTERAGENCY



WHAT HAPPENED? A Jackson resident crashed on his mountain bike while descending the West Game/Wilson Canyon Trail on the backside of Snow King Mountain. A team of TCSAR volunteers responded by loading mountain bikes onto the RZR and driving to the top of Snow King. They then descended via mountain bike into Wilson Canyon to the patient. Given the nature of the man's injuries and difficult location, the team requested an interagency helicopter assist from Teton

Helitack. Grand Teton National Park rangers responded in the helicopter and were able to short-haul the patient to an LZ at the Cache Creek Trailhead. The patient was then transferred to an ambulance. The remaining TCSAR team members rode their bikes back up to the top of Snow King and exited the field in the RZR.

-----

RESCUE Injured Mountain Biker on Teton Pass

DATE 7/13/22 TIME 1:35 p.m. DURATION 1 hour. 26

DURATION 1 hour, 26 minutes ATTENDEES 16 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? As the volunteers were debriefing the mountain bike accident earlier in the day, they received another call about an another injured mountain biker. This incident occurred on the Powerline Jumps Trail on Teton Pass. A visiting woman had crashed while descending the trail and was experiencing significant pain. Using the RZR once again, the team responded by driving up the Old Pass Road to a location near the patient. They were able to assess her injuries and drive her in the RZR to her vehicle, where she opted to self-transport instead of taking an ambulance.

RESCUE III Backpacker in Alaska Basin

DATE 7/15/22
TIME 3:54 p.m.
DURATION 7 minutes

19 team members

ATTENDEES INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was paged regarding a woman going in and out of consciousness and experiencing severe abdominal pain in Alaska Basin. TCSAR requested an interagency helicopter assist from Grand Teton National Park. Jenny Lake Climbing Rangers accepted the mission, responded to her location, and transported the woman in the helicopter to higher medical care.

**RESCUE** Missing Paddler on Lower Slide Lake

DATE 7/17/22 TIME 2:18 p.m.

DURATION 15 minutes minutes ATTENDEES 5 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was paged for a female standup paddler on Lower Slide Lake who had been missing for over a half hour. The RP believed the paddler had been pushed by winds and was unable to return to the Atherton Creek boat access. The woman was last seen with her child and black Lab on board. It was believed that the child was wearing a PFD but not the paddler. A sheriff deputy responded to the RP's location and attempted to get more information when the missing woman, child, and dog were seen paddling back to the boat ramp.

RESCUE Tired Hiker in Granite Canyon

DATE 7/19/22 TIME 1:19 p.m.

DURATION 1 hour, 14 minutes ATTENDEES 8 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was paged for a 64-year-old male who was backpacking in Granite Canyon but couldn't continue. Members in his group tried to bring him back up to the aerial tram at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort but were unsuccessful. Due to the close proximity of JHMR, Mountain Patrol was requested to respond and that team was able to bring him to the top of the tram to get a ride to the bottom. The subject declined medical care.

RESCUE Injured Backpacker in Alaska Basin

 DATE
 7/19/22

 TIME
 6:35 p.m.

 DURATION
 23 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 5 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was paged for a 15-year-old male who had cut his foot after jumping into a lake in Alaska Basin and presumed he couldn't hike out. The group was on a backpacking trip with a summer camp for boys. After a SAR advisor spoke to the RP, the group decided to spend the night and hike out the next day.

RESCUE Injured Horseback Rider at Heart 6 Ranch

DATE 7/23/22 TIME 2:47 p.m.

DURATION 4 hours, 28 minutes

## Glossary

**Board of Advisors (BOA):** The Board of Advisors consists of six TCSAR volunteers who are elected by their teammates to occupy leadership positions. Those positions include Chief Advisor, Logistics Advisor, Training Advisor, Membership Advisor, Medical Advisor, and Planning Advisor.

**Board Call Only:** After a 911 call, dispatch pages the Board of Advisors to discuss the nature of the incident. Board Call Only indicates the incident was resolved without having to dispatch or page the entire team.

**Dispatch:** Teton County Dispatch at the Sheriff's Office Communication Center. Dispatchers are instrumental in helping TCSAR resolve backcountry accidents.

**Interagency:** Incident that involves Grand Teton National Park, U.S. Forest Service, or other agency, often with the use of the interagency helicopter.

**RP:** Shorthand for reporting party. This is the person who makes the initial emergency call to dispatch.

**RZR:** The model name of a Polaris utility terrain vehicle (UTV).

**Short-haul:** A technique where a rescuer and/ or patient is suspended by a rope beneath the helicopter for a short flight out of the backcountry. It is often deployed to access patients in steep and/ or technical terrain where landing a helicopter is not an option.

**Suck bag:** A full body vacuum splint used to immobilize and transport a patient.

**Wheeled litter:** A ground-based rescue tool that includes a litter supported by a fat mountain bike tire.

www.tetoncountysar.org TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 11



ATTENDEES

14 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A 79-year-old man sustained numerous injuries after falling off his horse during a trail ride at Heart 6 Ranch in the Buffalo Valley. TCSAR responded with teams in two RZRs. After reaching the patient, they packaged him and transported him for about 25 minutes in the wheeled litter to a waiting ambulance.

RESCUE Injured Tram Mechanic at JHMR

DATE 7/23/22 TIME 4:14 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 46 minutes ATTENDEES 7 team members

INTERAGENCY



WHAT HAPPENED? As the previous callout in Buffalo Valley was mobilizing, the BOA was paged about an injured tram worker at JHMR. The patient was working on Tower 5 when he was struck by the tram. JHMR reached out to TCSAR to request helicopter assistance, but the two ships with Teton Helitack were already busy and unavailable. TCSAR then put in a request for Air Idaho, a private air amublance. A RZR from the Heart 6 Ranch callout was diverted to JHMR to manage the air response at the Teton Village LZ. JHMR Mountain Patrol was able to lower the patient from Tower 5 to the top of the tram, which then transported the patient to the top of the mountain. He was then loaded into the tram and brought down to the base area and delivered to Air Idaho for medical transport.

RESCUE Overdue Horseback Riders at Turpin Meadows

DATE 7/29/22 TIME 5:22 a.m.

DURATION 9 hours, 38 minutes ATTENDEES 19 team members

INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was notified that a pair of horseback riders had left Turpin Meadows the day before, on Thursday, to go for a half-day ride but failed to return before nightfall. The team was paged at 5 a.m. Friday to initiate a response and put in a request for the interagency helicopter to conduct an aerial search. A sheriff deputy and ground-based TCSAR team was also dispatched to the trailhead to see if they could find the missing subjects' vehicle. The vehicle was still at the trailhead, along with paper maps on the dash. Meanwhile, the heli request was granted, and two SAR members were flown over the area in question to see if they could spot the missing horse riders. The team also paged Tip Top SAR out of Pinedale to see if they could shuttle team members into the area via helicopter. At 12:30 p.m., the horseback riders were eventually located, uninjured, about one mile north of Soda Fork and the North Buffalo Fork. They had spent a cold night out in the woods but were otherwise OK. They exited the backcountry on their own power and notified TCSAR when they reached their vehicle.

RESCUE Injured Horseback Rider near Goosewing Ranch

DATE 7/29/22 TIME 3:39 p.m.

DURATION 3 hours, 54 minutes ATTENDEES 12 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? On the same day that TCSAR searched for two missing horseback riders near Turpin Meadows, the volunteers were paged to respond to a woman who had fallen from her horse near Goosewing Ranch in the Gros Ventre Mountains. TCSAR responded with a truck up the Gros Ventre Road. They located the patient, assessed her injuries, and helped her to a waiting ambulance at the trailhead.

RESCUE Injured Mountain Biker on Mill Creek Trail

 DATE
 7/30/22

 TIME
 11:20 a.m.

 DURATION
 4 hours

 ATTENDEES
 10 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was alerted to a female mountain biker who had crashed about a mile up the Mill Creek Trail in Teton Canyon. Five volunteers drove over Teton Pass to the trailhead and hiked up the trail to locate the patient, who was complaining of severe pain in her lower leg. The team packaged her for transport in the wheeled litter and brought her down the trail to a waiting ambulance.

**RESCUE** Injured Hiker at Phillips Bench

DATE 7/30/22 TIME 12:48 p.m.

DURATION 3 hours, 57 minutes
ATTENDEES 16 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? During the response to the injured mountain biker in Mill Creek, TCSAR was called to assist a woman who'd become injured while hiking in Phillips Canyon. The woman had reportedly fallen while crossing a log bridge. Two TCSAR volunteers who were originally driving to the Mill Creek rescue were diverted directly to the Phillips Bench, along with a truck with more team members. The vehicles drove up the powerline two-track, and hiked in about 1.5 miles with the wheeled litter and medical supplies. The volunteers packaged the patient, and wheeled her on the litter back to the RZR. From there, the team drove her to the trailhead to a waiting ambulance.

RESCUE Lost Outfitter in Soda Fork

DATE 7/30/22
TIME 7:30 p.m.
DURATION 17 hours

ATTENDEES 4 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? A male outfitter was reported to be missing after being last seen leading a string of horses into Soda Fork from Marston Flats outside of Cody. The RP told the BOA in a phone call that the outfitter's daughter might be able to provide more information after she exited the backcountry at Turpin Meadows. The next day, after learning that her father was missing, the daughter went back up the trail from Turpin Meadows to begin searching. She found him later that day, and reported that her father had dropped into the wrong drainage and it took him 24 hours to find his way back. The call stood down.

#### » AUGUST

RESCUE Lightning Strike at Enos Lake, OP1, OP2, OP3

DATE 8/2/22 TIME 6:25 p.m.

DURATION 20 hours, 5 minutes ATTENDEES 27 team members

**INTERAGENCY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was notified that lightning had struck a group of backpackers camped at Enos Lake in the Teton Wilderness. One person, a 22-year-old male, died in the incident, while another, an adult male, sustained major injuries. The lightning bolt reportedly hit the backpackers while they were hunkered down in camp. The men were part of a group of 14 adults on an organized wilderness trip.

TCSAR mobilized a response by issuing a request for the interagency helicopter from Teton Helitack. The request was approved and the helicopter flew three SAR volunteers to the site on the evening of August 2. CPR had been in progress for more than an hour when the ship landed with the SAR team members. The volunteers took over but the patient could not be revived.

The helicopter did two flights out that evening. In the first, the ship flew the injured patient and one SAR member out of the backcountry. The injured patient was transferred to an ambulance in Moran, transported to St. John's Health, and then flown to Eastern Idaho Medical Center. The helicopter returned to the scene for a second flight and transported the deceased patient to the Jackson Hole Airport, where he was met by the Teton County Coroner.

Due to nightfall and inclement weather, the helicopter could not return to the scene. The two remaining SAR members stayed overnight to manage the scene and provide support to the other members of the party.

The next morning, August 3, the TCSAR volunteers on scene communicated to Incident Command that two additional members of the party would need an air evac from the backcountry. There was concern that the two individuals would not be able to make the 12-mile hike out due to acute emotional reaction and pre-existing medical concerns. TCSAR

again requested the interagency helicopter, but lingering fog delayed a flight until after 11 a.m. When the weather cleared, the interagency helicopter flew to the site and picked up the two additional patients and two SAR members and transported them out of the backcountry.

RESCUE Motorcycle Crash on Teton Pass

 DATE
 8/7/22

 TIME
 11:48 a.m.

 DURATION
 2 hours, 55 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 15 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA received a call for a 56-year-old male motorcycle rider who had crashed and gone over the edge of the highway at milepost 13 on Hwy 22. Jackson Hole Fire/EMS was on scene and requested TCSAR for rigging assistance. Two teams dispatched and assisted with rigging to lower rescue personnel and raise the patient to a waiting ambulance. Unfortunately, the man died in the accident.

RESCUE Overdue Hiker up Teton Canyon

DATE 8/7/22
TIME 10:38 p.m.
DURATION 2 hours, 13 minutes
ATTENDEES 5 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? A hiker was overdue after going for a solo hike up Devil's Staircase in Teton Canyon. The BOA asked the RP to go check the trailhead and report back if the hiker's car was still there. After learning that the vehicle was still at the trailhead, the Board determined that the search area was too big for a night rescue and decided to convene at first light the next day to plan a search. At 12:50 a.m., the hiker made it out on their own and the event was stood down.

RESCUE Tired Hiker up North Teton Canyon

DATE 8/13/22 TIME 5:10 p.m.

DURATION 6 hours, 20 minutes ATTENDEES 13 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR volunteers got called to perform a ground-based rescue during a heavy rainstorm. A woman had been hiking on the North Teton Trail of Teton Canyon when

she was unable to continue due to a pre-existing medical condition. TCSAR responded with two strike teams: one group of four volunteers from Jackson and a second group of three who live in Teton Valley on the west side of the Tetons. Given the inclement weather, a ground rescue was the only option. The Teton Valley-based team reached the trailhead first and began hiking in, locating the patient around 7:10 p.m. They provided shelter from the weather and assessed her injuries while the Jackson team approached with the wheeled litter. Once the Jackson team arrived at around 8:10 p.m., the volunteers transported the patient via wheeled litter to the trailhead. At 9:41 p.m., all parties reached the trailhead, and the woman decided to self-transport from there with her family.

RESCUE False inReach Activation on the Teton Crest Trail

DATE 8/14/22
TIME 10:18 p.m.
DURATION 14 minutes
ATTENDEES 6 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was called after dispatch received a notification of a Garmin inReach SOS activation near the Teton Crest Trail. Dispatch was able to get the International Emergency Response Coordination Center (IERCC) to message the owner and determine it was a false activation.

**RESCUE** Lost Hikers at JHMR

DATE 8/19/22 TIME 11:50 a.m.



DURATION ATTENDEES BOARD CALL ONLY 1 hour, 27 minutes 5 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was paged for two females lost and stuck outside the JHMR boundary in the Rock Springs drainage. Contact was made with the subjects, who were uninjured but didn't feel like they could continue. JHMR Mountain Patrol was called to see if they had personnel who could respond. JHMR responded and were able to help the mother and daughter back up to the trail to the resort.

RESCUE Heli Evac in Alaska Basin

DATE 8/19/22 TIME 1:05 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 10 minutes ATTENDEES 7 team members

**INTERAGENCY** 



WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was contacted after dispatch received an SOS alert from a Garmin inReach in the Alaska Basin. The alert reported that a woman was vomiting possibly due to altitude sickness. A request to use the interagency helicopter was granted, and TCSAR flew a team of volunteers to the patient. She was assessed and transported to the TCSAR hangar to meet a waiting ambulance.

**RESCUE** Missing Berry Picker in Jack Pine

DATE 8/20/22 TIME 3:39 p.m.



DURATION 5 minutes
ATTENDEES 1 team member
BOARD CALL ONLY

**WHAT HAPPENED?** The BOA was called for a 58-year-old female who had been missing for two hours on the Jack Pine/Pinnacle Loop near Felt, Idaho. While on the phone with dispatch, the woman was located and the call stood down.

RESCUE Injured Horse Rider at Ditch Creek

DATE 8/22/22 TIME 10:35 a.m.

DURATION 3 hours, 25 minutes

ATTENDEES 12 team members

**WHAT HAPPENED?** The BOA was paged for a 75-year-old male who fell off his horse in Ditch Creek. TCSAR volunteers responded with the RZR and truck. Teams were able to reach the patient, transport him in the wheeled litter to the RZR, and then transfer him to an ambulance.

RESCUE Injured Mountain Biker on Ferrin's Trail

DATE 8/22/22
TIME 8:18 p.m.
DURATION 1 hour, 42 minutes
ATTENDEES 13 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? TCSAR was alerted after a 49-year-old woman crashed on her mountain bike near the top of the Ferrin's Trail, sustaining a suspected head injury even though she was wearing a helmet. Two team members responded from their homes due to their close proximity to the trail, while a RZR team responded from the hangar. The patient was brought down the trail in a heavy rainstorm. She was then transferred to the RZR at the Hagen Trail and transported directly to the hospital.

RESCUE Injured Hiker in Teton Canyon

DATE 8/25/22 TIME 4:53 p.m.

DURATION 3 hours, 44 minutes ATTENDEES 19 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A woman fell while hiking down Table Mountain on the western slope of the Tetons. She experienced a head injury around her eye, and became disoriented and had difficulty walking. TCSAR sent a team of three volunteers up the North Teton Canyon Trail. The initial response team arrived and kept the patient warm and provided cover in case of rain. A second group of volunteers arrived on scene with the wheeled litter, but by then, the patient was able to walk. The team helped her down the mountain and monitored her condition to the trailhead. From there, the patient self-transported.

RESCUE Injured Mountain Biker on Teton Pass

DATE 8/25/22 TIME 6:15 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 33 minutes ATTENDEES 23 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A 32-year-old male mountain biker crashed on the Fuzzy Bunny Trail on Teton Pass and suffered severe injuries. TCSAR responded with volunteers utilizing the RZR and a SAR truck. The RZR was able to drive directly to the patient, with a Jackson Hole Fire/EMS ambulance not far behind. The team had quick access to the patient, administered care, packaged him in a suck bag, and carried him about 75 feet to the ambulance.

RESCUE Horse Accident in Bonneville County, Idaho

DATE 8/28/22 TIME 2:45 p.m.

DURATION 4 hours, 10 minutes
ATTENDEES 8 team members

BOARD CALL ONLY INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? A woman on a horse trip up Big Elk Creek in the Palisades was bucked off her animal and ended up down a hill in the creek, resulting in severe injuries and hypothermia. Bonneville County Idaho SAR responded and found the incident to be 250 feet across the Idaho border into Teton County, Wyo. The Idaho team communicated the situation with TCSAR and requested the interagency helicopter from Teton Helitack. TCSAR helped coordinate the helicopter assist, with a short-haul extraction being performed by Grand Teton National Park's Jenny Lake Rangers. The Idaho team completed the rest of the mission, and did not require further TCSAR resources.

**RESCUE** Injured Mountain Biker on Teton Pass

DATE 8/28/22 TIME 3:34 p.m. DURATION 1 hour. 56 mi

DURATION 1 hour, 56 minutes ATTENDEES 18 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A 14-year-old boy crashed his mountain bike on the Parallel Trail, a downhill-specific trail on Teton Pass that includes multiple jumps and features. As he attempted a gap jump, he came up short and crashed on impact.

TCSAR responded to the incident with the RZR and SAR truck, with the RZR driving up the Old Pass Road to the patient. The volunteers packaged the patient in the suck bag and carried him to an ambulance on Hwy 22. This was TCSAR's 10th mountain bike rescue since June 1.

RESCUE Injured Backpacker in Alaska Basin

DATE 8/29/22 TIME 10:12 a.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 18 minutes ATTENDEES 10 team members

INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? A father and son were on day two of their backpacking trip along the Teton Crest Trail when the father was unable to continue after stumbling and injuring his lower leg. Another party hiking the trail put out an SOS alert on a Garmin satellite device, which was relayed to Teton County Dispatch. Dispatch then alerted TCSAR volunteers, who placed a request into Teton Helitack for the interagency helicopter. That request was granted, and the helicopter picked up two TCSAR volunteers from the team's hangar in Jackson, and then flew to the accident site about a half mile south of Sunset Lake. There, they assessed the patient, and flew him and his son back to the hangar, where the patient was transferred to a waiting ambulance.

#### » SEPTEMBER

RESCUE Lost Horse Rider in Dog Creek

DATE 9/5/22 TIME 7:34 p.m.

DURATION 10 hours, 26 minutes

ATTENDEES 18 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A Wyoming woman in her early 50s took two horses out for a day trip in the Dog Creek area of the Snake River Canyon. About six miles up the drainage, she got lost in the thick timber. She called her husband and reported that her GPS was leading her in the wrong direction. She had cell service, but with no headlamp and only a light jacket, she was unprepared to spend the night in the backcountry.

The husband called Teton County Dispatch at about 7:30 p.m. which then alerted TCSAR. The woman also placed a 911 call, which was picked up by Lincoln County Dispatch. TCSAR began coordinating with Lincoln County SAR and ultimately took the mission since the Teton County team would be able to reach the lost subject faster via Little Dog Creek.

TCSAR volunteers responded to the trailhead and began hiking at 9:30 p.m. At 11:53 p.m., the woman reported that she could hear voices yelling for her. At 12:12 a.m. they made voice contact. At 12:18, SAR members reached the patient, about 6.4 miles from the trailhead. She was uninjured and OK to ride out on her horse. The teams led her and the two horses out of the field, reaching the trailhead at 4:23 a.m.

RESCUE Injured Horseback Rider at Hendrick Pond

 DATE
 9/6/22

 TIME
 3:11 p.m.

 DURATION
 27 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 6 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was called regarding a middle-aged female involved in a horseback riding accident near Hendrick Pond. After contacting an EMT on scene, it was determined that the accident occurred in Grand Teton National Park. GTNP was notified and responded to the scene.

**RESCUE** Injured Female in Teton Canyon

DATE 9/13/22 TIME 1:04 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 56 minutes ATTENDEES 18 team members

**WHAT HAPPENED?** The BOA was paged for a female hiker who had fallen and suffered facial injuries near Scout Camp in Teton



Canyon. The team was paged and responded with the SAR truck and wheeled litter. The patient was contacted at the trailhead, provided initial treatment for her injuries, and self-transported to further medical care.

**RESCUE** Injured Mountain Biker outside of Grand Targhee

DATE 9/13/22 TIME 6:13 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 17 minutes ATTENDEES 37 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A 38-year-old male mountain biker sustained suspected back and head injuries after crashing just outside of Grand Targhee Resort. The BOA contacted Grand Targhee Bike Patrol, who were able to respond to the patient directly. TCSAR volunteers responded by towing a RZR to Targhee in case patrol needed backup. Targhee patrol was able to transfer the patient to an ambulance, and TCSAR stood down.

RESCUE False SPOT Activation at Horse Creek

DATE 9/14/22 TIME 3:15 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 5 minutes ATTENDEES 19 team members

INTERAGENCY



**WHAT HAPPENED?** TCSAR was notified of a SPOT activation in the Horse Creek area from a 38-year-old male believed to have horses. The team issued a request for the interagency

www.tetoncountysar.org TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 15



helicopter, which landed at the TCSAR hangar and picked up two volunteers. The ship flew to the site and made contact with the subjects, where the SOS alert was determined to be accidental.

RESCUE Broken-down Vehicle on Union Pass

 DATE
 9/16/22

 TIME
 10:19 a.m.

 DURATION
 1 hour, 40 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 4 team members

**BOARD PAGE ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was paged regarding a man whose vehicle had broken down on Union Pass but didn't want to spend \$1,000 on a tow. TCSAR was notified in case the event turned into a Search & Rescue event. The man eventually found a cheaper tow out of Pinedale.

**RESCUE** False Garmin Activation near Horse Creek

 DATE
 9/17/22

 TIME
 10:16 a.m.

 DURATION
 1 hour, 20 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 6 team members

**BOARD PAGE ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was called for an inReach activation near Horse Creek. The device hadn't moved and it was not responding to messages. Emergency contacts were notified. Grand Teton National Park was notified in case of an

interagency heli request. The subject eventually canceled the notification.

RESCUE Missing Runners on the Teton Crest Trail

DATE 9/18/22 TIME 8:40 p.m.

DURATION 1 hour, 10 minutes ATTENDEES 4 team members

BOARD PAGE ONLY INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? The BOA was alerted regarding two female trail runners who failed to meet their planned rendezvous with another runner. The two women had started at the JHMR aerial tram and planned to meet their friend at the Middle Fork junction. TCSAR tried to ping the women's phones but were unsuccessful. TCSAR notified GTNP rangers, who found the subjects' vehicle at String Lake and left a note to call when they had returned. At 9:50 p.m., the women called their roommate to say they had gotten a late start and were making their way out to Jenny Lake.

RESCUE Overdue Hiker in the Tetons

DATE 9/22/22
TIME 10:02 p.m.
DURATION 2 hours, 54 minutes
ATTENDEES 4 team members

BOARD PAGE ONLY INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? GTNP Rangers called the BOA for assistance locating a lost 27-year-old male hiker. The hiker had called his sister, who reported his location to be hiking west from Cascade Canyon. She told rangers that he was trying to give coordinates when the call was lost. The sister called 911 and dispatch notified GTNP. After further investigation, GTNP notified TCSAR that his last known point put him at the headwaters of Roaring Creek, which was outside of the park's jurisdiction. A TCSAR advisor contacted the sister and advised her of the investigation. If the man didn't make it out, the SAR board would reconvene at 6 a.m. with a plan for a search. The family agreed to provide containment at the Teton Canyon trailhead. The lost hiker was able to make it to trailhead just before 1 a.m., where the family met him and notified TCSAR that all was OK.

RESCUE Injured Hunter at Pinyon Peak

DATE 9/23/22 TIME 3:58 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 18 minutes ATTENDEES 17 team members

INTERAGNECY



WHAT HAPPENED? A 60-year-old man injured his knee while hunting in the Pinyon Peak area, and notified dispatch through an inReach SOS activation. The man was hunting with friends about 20 miles from the nearest trailhead. Due to the remote nature of the incident, TCSAR requested the interagency helicopter, and flew two TCSAR volunteers to the site. They loaded the man into the ship and transported him to the TCSAR hangar.

RESCUE Injured Hiker on the Teton Crest Trail

DATE 9/26/22
TIME 7:03 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 28 minutes ATTENDEES 5 team members

INTERAGNECY



WHAT HAPPENED? A 29-year-old man injured his ankle while hiking the Teton Crest Trail about nine miles from the nearest trailhead at South Leigh Canyon. He was not able to walk and was separated from his tent and sleeping bag. Due to the time of day, approaching darkness, and distance from the trailhead, the decision was made to call Air Idaho and request them to fly the subject out. Air Idaho accepted the mission and transported the man to the Driggs hospital.

#### » OCTOBER

RESCUE Dog Request from Fremont County

 DATE
 10/1/22

 TIME
 8:44 a.m.

 DURATION
 47 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 7 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

**WHAT HAPPENED?** The BOA was notified by dispatch that Fremont County was requesting cadaver dogs and wanted SAR to know for briefing purposes only.

RESCUE Injured Hiker on Josie's Ridge

DATE 10/5/22 TIME 4:52 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 24 minutes ATTENDEES 21 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A woman in her 50s required TCSAR assistance after injuring her ankle on Josie's Ridge. TCSAR volunteers responded up the trail carrying the wheeled litter. They reached the patient, assessed her injuries, and transported her down the trail in the wheeled litter. At the trailhead, the patient's friend drove her to the hospital.

RESCUE Lincoln County Assist on Ferry Peak

 DATE
 10/5/22

 TIME
 8:10 p.m.

 DURATION
 0 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 5 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? The TCSAR Board received a call from Lincoln County about a possible assist for a man with a broken leg in the Ferry Peak area. The BOA provided information about potential air resources, and Lincoln County continued with the callout.

**RESCUE** Injured by Axe in Darby Canyon

 DATE
 10/7/22

 TIME
 4:25 p.m.

 DURATION
 54 minutes

 ATTENDEES
 7 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? Dispatch received a call for a man who had cut his hand with an axe in Darby Canyon. The RP had left the group to get cell service while the injured man would make his way down the trail. The Teton County Sheriff's Office sent a deputy to the trailhead when the RP called to report the injured man was on his way to the hospital.

**RESCUE** Injured Mountain Biker at Grand Targhee

DATE 10/9/22 TIME 1:28 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 57 minutes

ATTENDEES 12 team members INTERAGENCY

WHAT HAPPENED? A male mountain biker became severely injured after crashing his mountain bike on the Blondie Trail at Grand Targhee. Contact was made with the RP and a member of Teton County Idaho SAR who was on scene. Given the patient's condition, a request was made for the interagency helicopter at GTNP. Park rangers were able to fly in and extract the patient via short-haul and transport him to an ambulance at the base of Grand Targhee.

RESCUE Injured Mountain Biker on Teton Pass

DATE 10/9/22 TIME 4:07 p.m.

DURATION 2 hours, 30 minutes ATTENDEES 11 team members

WHAT HAPPENED? A 24-year-old female crashed her mountain bike on the Fuzzy Bunny Trail on Teton Pass. The team from the previous rescue at Targhee was able to respond on their way back to Jackson. Meanwhile, another team of volunteers approached via the Old Pass Road with the second RZR. Teams performed a patient assessment for chief complaint of a severe headache and cervical neck pain. The patient was packaged in the suck bag, transported via wheeled litter to the RZR, and driven to the Old Pass Road trailhead where she was transferred to an ambulance.

RESCUE Abandoned Tent Found on Teton Crest Trail

DATE 10/22/22
TIME 1:09 p.m.
DURATION 0 minutes
ATTENDEES 7 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? A hiker came across an abandoned tent on the Teton Crest Trail, and found it again 17 days later. The hiker reported it due to concerns about somebody being lost, injured, or worse. The BOA checked with other agencies and determined there was no knowledge of a missing or overdue person in that area. After further investigation, the tent was believed to belong to the man who was rescued and flown out of the backcountry on September 26.

#### » NOVEMBER

RESCUE Stuck Vehicle on Cave Falls Road

DATE 11/8/22 TIME 4 p.m.

DURATION 12 hours, 18 minutes ATTENDEES 9 team members

**BOARD CALL ONLY** 

WHAT HAPPENED? A Garmin inReach notification came in from two men who got their rental truck stuck up Cave Falls Road outside of Felt, Idaho, and across the state boundary in Teton County, Wyo. Dispatch called a towing company, but the tow truck could not get within 7-8 miles of the men. The BOA was able to contact the men directly through Garmin, and learned that the men had food, water, fuel, and were OK to spend the night if necessary. The towing company was able to put snowtracks on a side-by-side to retrieve the men, who made it out of the backcountry at 4 a.m.



## MISSION CRITICAL WILL GET TCSAR OUT OF THE "RENTAL GAMBLE"

A year-round SAR helicopter solves tomorrow's problems today

By Matt Hansen, TCSAR Foundation Communications Director

It is widely believed that charging people for rescues discourages or delays people from calling for help. Delaying a call for help can cause needless danger in a rescue, or unnecessarily complicate a search for a missing party. This can lead to potentially compromising scenarios for both the patient and rescuers who may be called later when the situation is worse, placing them at greater risk."

On July 20, 2022, the Jackson Hole News & Guide Editorial Board weighed in on Teton County Search & Rescue's campaign to purchase a year-round SAR-dedicated helicopter. In support of the campaign, the Editorial Board noted the unreliability of TCSAR's existing lease model, and stated that it would be "wise to get out of the rental gamble." Indeed, securing a helicopter lease even during contract months is unpredictable due to extended wildlfire seasons across the West.

To better understand why the helicopter purchase is so urgent, it's helpful to consider how a rescue helicopter fits into the bigger picture of SAR operations in Teton County.

The campaign, known as Mission Critical, calls for the TCSAR Foundation to raise \$7.2 million in

order to purchase an Airbus H125 helicopter and then hand it over to Teton County by Fall 2023. Annual operations would continue to be funded by the Teton County Sheriff's Office through the county's normal budgeting process. This is the same budgeting process that has funded TCSAR's annual operations since its inception in 1993. But instead of funding the current eight months for a helicopter lease (about \$350,000 annually), the county would budget for 12 months (about \$500,00-600,000 annually). Due to heightened demand for helicopters during the existing off-contract months in summer and fall, the cost to lease a ship year-round would cost more than \$1.2 million annually. Therefore, a purchase is a wiser longterm investment than a lease.

It's important to point out that all rescues

performed by TCSAR are free of charge, and that the cost of those rescues are reimbursed by the State of Wyoming or National Park Service. Those reimbursements go directly back to the county, not the Foundation. In 2021, those reimbursements totaled more than \$100,000.

So, why not just start charging for rescues? It's a fair question, but the answer is a little more complicated.

Only a handful of states currently allow people to be charged for rescues to varying degrees. Wyoming does not charge for rescues. In our own county, there is no legal mechanism for the Sheriff or SAR team to collect reimbursement from a private individual who has been rescued. Changing this system would require years-long efforts to persuade the state legislature to adopt

a new statute for the entire state.

Meanwhile, callouts for TCSAR continue to occur at a record pace–meaning the team has to figure out how to solve these problems today. Between the off-contract months between June and October this year, TCSAR requested the interagency helicopter 15 times, an all-time record.

Because TCSAR does not have a ship on contract from June 1 to October 1, the team must get these heli requests approved by federal agencies, which use the helicopter to fight fires in the area and perform rescues in Grand Teton National Park. All but three of the requests this summer were approved thanks to a lighter than normal fire season. Without access to the helicopter, the accidents we saw this summer would have had drastic, life-altering consequences. The odds of the helicopter being more available in the future is not a gamble the volunteers—our friends and neighbors who get called to respond to life-threatening injuries—want or should be expected to make.

In states like Utah and Colorado, SAR cards help defray some cost to SAR teams, but by and large, counties in those states still don't charge for rescues. Essentially, the cards are a great way for people to express their support for Search & Rescue services, but the cards don't act as insurance or intend to cover the full cost of every individual rescue.

In Wyoming, SAR funding comes from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses, grants, and voluntary donations. In Teton County, TCSAR

is additionally blessed to have such generous community support through events like Old Bill's.

National Parks, such as Grand Teton and Yellowstone, also do not charge for rescues. As TCSAR works hand-in-hand with these federal agencies, having a different model would add layers of confusion and proverbial red tape to the recreating public and the rescuers themselves.

But perhaps most important is how this would affect both rescuer and rescuee. It is widely believed that charging people for rescues discourages or delays people from calling for help. Delaying a call for help can cause needless danger in a rescue, or unnecessarily complicate a search for a missing party. This can lead to potentially compromising scenarios for both the patient and rescuers who may be called later when the situation is worse, placing them at greater risk.

TCSAR is run by volunteers and built on a public/private partnership to serve locals and visitors alike. With the Sheriff's Office funding annual operations, TCSAR Foundation raises money for direct volunteer support (such as gear, training, meals, and mental health support) through private donations. With backcountry recreation in Teton County forming a significant part of our region's economic and cultural backbone, TCSAR and the Foundation believe that funding a voluntary SAR service helps sustain a healthy community for everyone.

Please join us.



## Our volunteers respond to calls 24/7/365.

THANK YOU TO THESE LOCAL EMPLOYERS FOR THEIR FLEXIBILITY AND SUPPORT OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!

AMERICAN AVALANCHE ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN AVALANCHE INSTITUTE

**BERLIN ARCHITECHS** 

**BLACK FOX RESCUE INSTITUTE** 

CHRISTOPHER LEIGH ATTORNEY AT LAW

**FACTORY IT** 

**GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION** 

IDFIVE

IF YOU'RE NEEDY CALL WIEDIE

JACKSON HOLE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

**JACKSON HOLE FIRE/EMS** 

**JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN GUIDES** 

**JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT** 

**JACKSON HOLE SKI CLUB** 

**JEN REDDY INK** 

JH INDOOR

JOHNSTON CPA

LOCKHART CATTLE CO.

**MOUNTAIN PHYSIO** 

NANETTE MATTEI INTERIOR DESIGN

**OPS STRATEGIES** 

PAGE AND COMPANY COLLECTION

**SNOW KING MOUNTAIN** 

**SPARKS AND REC** 

ST. JOHN'S HEALTH

SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

**TETON BEAR PRODUCTS** 

**TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT** 

TETON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

TETON COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE FOUNDATION

TETON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

TETON MAPLE EXCHANGE

WIND RIVER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

**WOUNDED BEAR MEDICINE** 

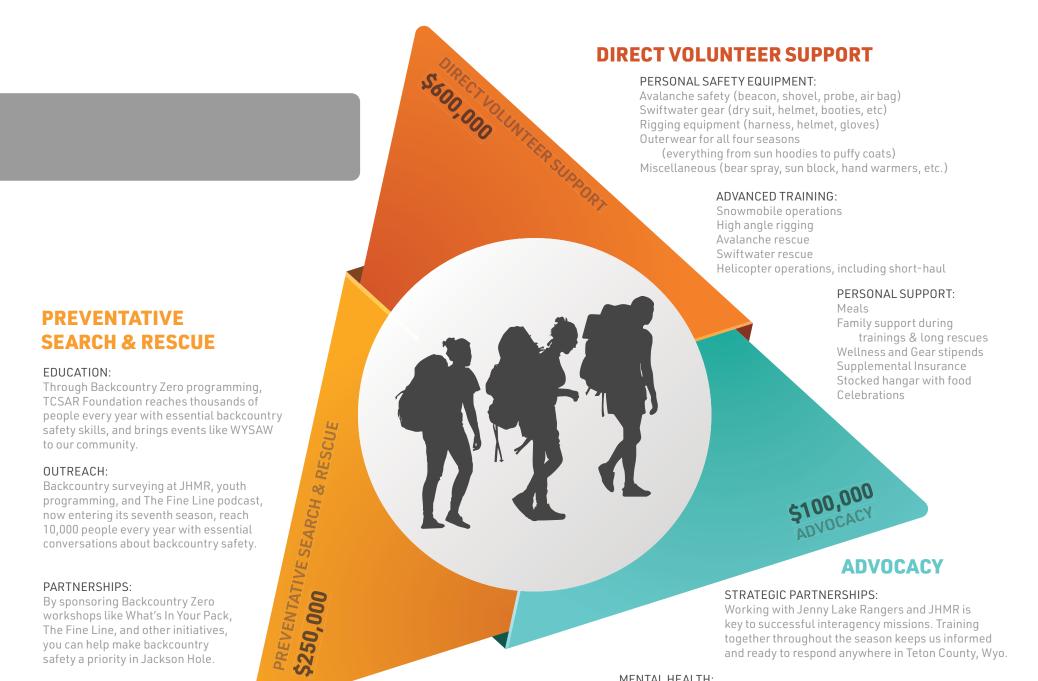
### **2022/2023 WISH LIST**

TCSAR Foundation raises money to support SAR volunteers with equipment, personal wellness and advanced training; educate the community about best backcountry practices; and advocacy.

This diagram is intended to illustrate how and where the Foundation puts its resources in support of TCSAR volunteers on an annual basis.

Let us know where you'd like to help out!

CONTACT:
CONNOR NOLAN,
DONOR RELATIONS COORDINATOR,
CONNOR@TETONCOUNTYSAR.ORG

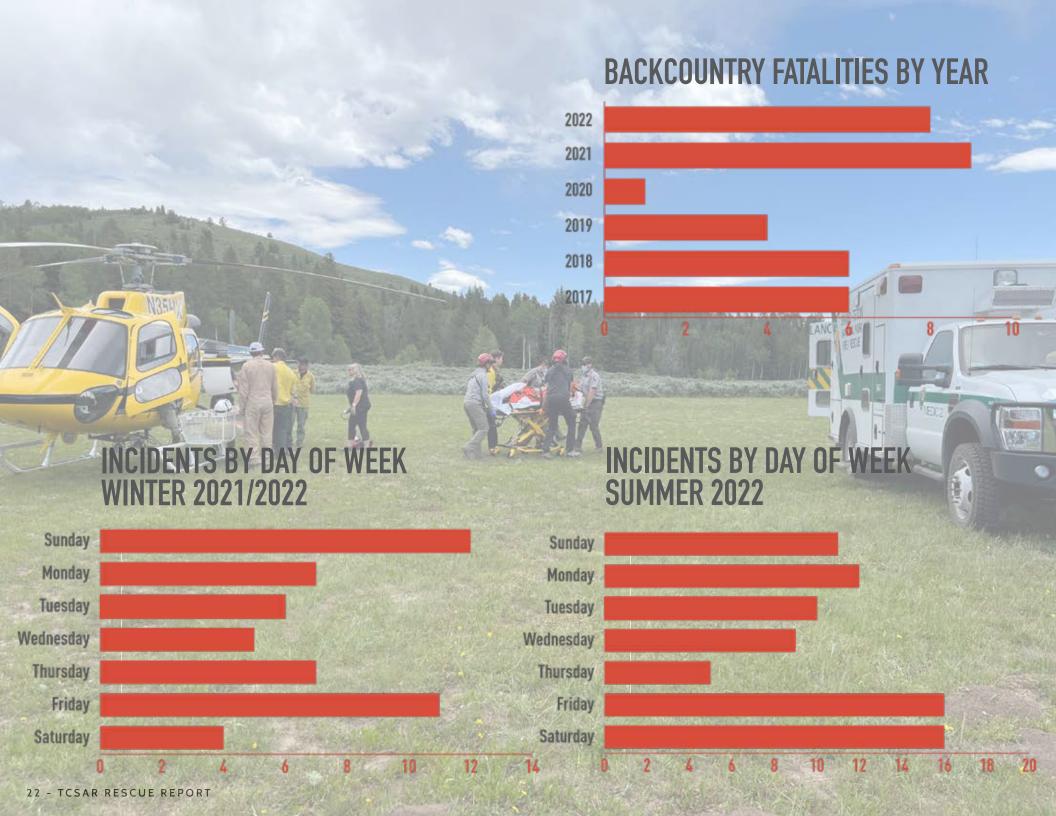


www.tetoncountysar.org TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 21

MENTAL HEALTH:

TCSAR Foundation offers wellness support for volunteers and partners with the Teton Interagency Peer Support. By providing peer support services and direct counseling that is anonymous and free, our first responders in Teton County

have a network to help them mitigate stress trauma.



## SHRIVER SOCIETY



The Shriver Society is a group of dedicated supporters of Teton County Search & Rescue who make a long term, significant contribution to the volunteer team.

RAY SHRIVER served on the Teton County Search & Rescue team from its inception in 1993 until his death in 2012. Ray died on February 15, 2012, in a helicopter crash while on a Search & Rescue mission. The Shriver Society was created in his honor. Your three-year gift augments training, equipment and other ancillary support, directly impacting our mission.

The spirit of Jackson Hole is rooted in our passion for its natural wonders, but I've always thought that what makes Jackson truly special is our abiding care for one another. Nowhere is that spirit of community more evident than in the dedication of Teton County Search & Rescue. TCSAR volunteers put aside their own lives to quickly respond with remarkable skill and compassion to assist a neighbor, visitor or loved one who requires urgent help. My continued membership in the Shriver Society allows me to support this effort and to express thanks for the sacrifices made by each and every member of the TCSAR team."

- Missy Whelan

### SHRIVER SOCIETY MEMBERS

JOSEPH ALBRIGHT & MARCIA KUNSTEL KRISTINE & ART DENTON LYONS & ZOOEY BROWN JONAS & SHERYL CLEM **RYAN & SUSAN COMBS** 

JIM FRANK &

MORRIS & ANNE KINNE

JACK & JANET LARIMER MARTY & TOBY LEITH REMY LEVY & CATHY KEHR ADRIENNE & JOHN MARS SAM & LINDSEY McGEE &

BILL & TALLY MINGST

RICHARD & PAM NINER JULIE & HUGH O'HALLORAN

PAUL & SHIRLEY PIPER

MERRILL & NANETTE RITTER

JACK & KATHERINE SHOOK

PATRICK SMITH & JC WHITFIELD

MARGOT SNOWDON & YVES DESGOUTTES

STEPHANIE THOMAS &

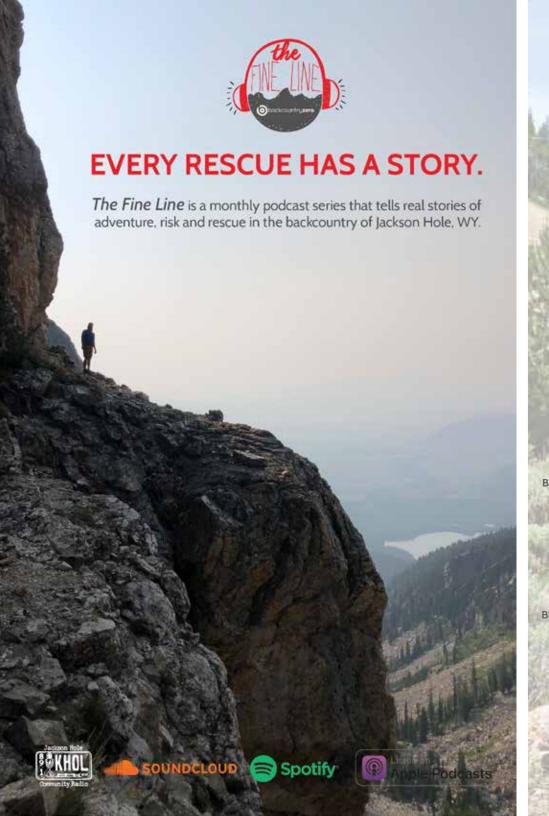
BARBARA & KENNETH THOMASMA

WHITELEY & NICK WHEELER

TOM WINDLE & PAT WEBER

KELVIN WU & ELLI BEMIS

For more information, please visit **TetonCountySAR.org/shriversociety** or call us at (307) 204-

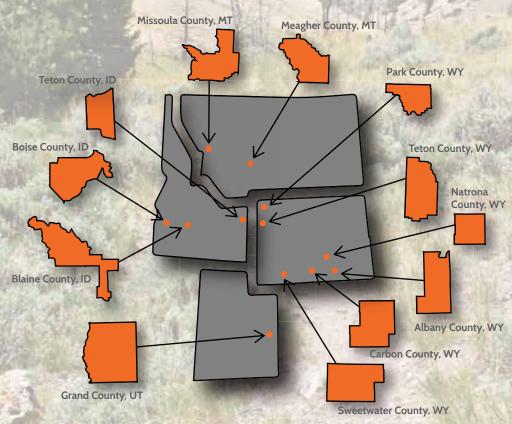




If you're lost, trapped, or injured in a remote location, BackcountrySOS is a great tool to have in your arsenal. The app works wherever text-to-911 service is available.

Almost 1,500 counties support text-to-911 with more added each month.

Additionally, the following counties specifically monitor for BackcountrySOS communication on their 911 systems.



# Thank you to our business & community sponsors



Arc'teryx TSTA **Black Diamond** Blizzard/Tecnica Bubba's Cafe Genevieve C. David Clauss, Attorney at Law Creekside Deli **Cowboy Coffee Community Foundation of JH** 

**Fine Dining Restaurant Group** Grand Teton Lodge Co. **Guild Mortgage** Jackson Hole Mountain Resort JH Backcountry Health JH Sports Kate's Real Food

**Lockhart Cattle Company** 

Long Reimer Winegar Beppler

COLD BEERS FOR

Mammut New West Knifeworks The North Face Pica's Mexican Taqueria **Picnic Raintree Foundation**  Roadhouse Brewing Rossignol/Dynastar RPK3 Law LLC **Skinny Skis** 

**Snake River Roasting Snow King Mountain STEP** Stio Sweet Cheeks Meats **Teton County Sheriff's Office** The Liquor Store VIM



**Premier Sponsors:** Community Foundation of Jackson Hole **Raintree Foundation** 

**Grand Teton National Park - Jenny Lake Rangers Teton County Sheriff's Office** 

**American Avalanche Association American Avalanche Institute** Architectrual Stone + Tile •···· **Arc'teryx** AT&T Bank of Jackson Hole **Black Diamond** 

**Bridger-Teton Avalanche Center** 

**Bridger-Teton National Forest** Classic Air Medical Copyworks • **Exum Mountain Guides Flylow** Grand Teton Lodge Co. **Guild Mortgage** 

**Headwall Sports** 

Local

**Hoback Sports JH Outdoor Leadership Institute** JH Ski & Snowboard Club **Jenny Lake Rangers** Kate's Real Food Mountain Bike the Tetons **New West Knife Works** 

Ortovox

·· RECCO **Rendezvous River Sports Roadhouse Brewing Skinny Skis Snake River Brewery Snake River Fund** 

**Stinky Prints** Stio **Teton Backcountry Rentals Teton County Sheriff's Office** • The Hub The Mountain Riding Lab

Stephen P. Adamson Jr. Memorial Fund Women in the Tetons Steve Romeo Memorial Fund

www.tetoncountysar.org TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 25







#### HEADWALL SPORTS

6:30-8:00pm every other Wednesday Starting in December





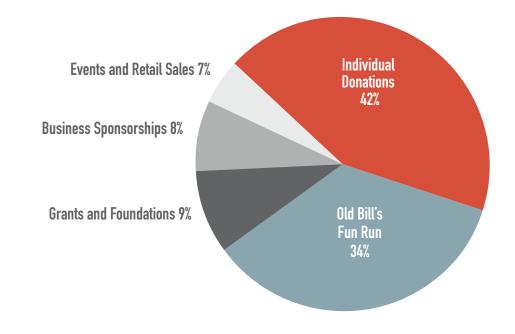




## **MISSION**

TCSAR Foundation supports
Teton County Search & Rescue
volunteers through direct support,
community education and advocacy.

## HOW TCSAR FOUNDATION IS FUNDED



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

JESSE STOVER, PRESIDENT

HUGH O'HALLORAN, VICE PRESIDENT

SARA ADAMSON, SECRETARY

DON WATKINS, TREASURER

MATT CHANDLER

TOM CHAPMAN

HADLEY HAMMER

DAVE LANDES

**FIO LAZARTE** 

**DANA MACY** 

LESLIE MATTSON

**JENNIFER SPARKS** 

STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

**EMERITUS** 

BILL HOGLUND

**NED JANNOTTA** 

MISSY WHELAN

SCOTT GUENTHER, GTNP LIAISON

CODY LOCKHART, TCSAR ADVISOR LIAISON

## FOUNDATION STAFF



LEFT TO RIGHT: CONNOR NOLAN, DONOR RELATIONS COORDINATOR | STEPHANIE THOMAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | CARYN FLANAGAN, DIRECT SUPPORT COORDINATOR | GENEVIEVE COZZENS, OPERATIONS COORDINATOR | LIZ KING, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR | MADDIE JOHNSON, PREVENTATIVE SAR COORDINATOR | MATT HANSEN, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

## FROM THE TCSAR FOUNDATION

The past six months have been a whirlwind of activity here at TCSAR Foundation, as we work to support TCSAR volunteers during a record year of rescue calls. Our staff continues to adapt our fundraising goals, community outreach strategies, and advocacy to ensure we can support the volunteers in the ways they need it most.

Even with a record volume of calls, TCSAR volunteers are still in high spirits and constantly looking for more ways to focus their skills and learn best practices. This fall, seven volunteers attended the International Commission on Alpine Rescue (ICAR), spending three days in Switzerland devoted to rescue tactics that included dog handling, helicopter support, avalanche rescue, and ground-based techniques. We also sent four individuals to a backcountry trauma workshop and another three volunteers to the International Technical Rope Symposium. With help from you—our generous supporters—the Foundation is able to fund these SAR team members' efforts to advance their rescue skills to the benefit of the entire team.

On top of our annual fundraising goals to keep volunteers outfitted, fed and trained, this year the Foundation took on the ambitious goal of raising \$7.2 million to purchase a year-round, SAR-dedicated helicopter for Teton County. TCSAR volunteers constantly talk about the best way to serve our community. They are certain that having access to a year-round helicopter will serve our community at the highest levels. In taking on this campaign, known as Mission Critical, TCSAR Foundation is honored to be able to be in a position to help our volunteers achieve this goal.

As we step into winter, our minds turn to supporting our volunteers during the next few months where rescues tend to be more technical, less forgiving, and require more attention to weather and time of day. The Foundation will be here every step of the way, making sure our volunteers have hot meals, the equipment they need, and the support they ask for to keep them mission ready.

Thank you for your continued support of TCSAR. We would not be able to do what we do without you. Here's to a safe, adventure-filled winter.

Stephanie Thomas TCSAR Foundation Executive Director Volunteer #75

www.tetoncountysar.org TCSAR RESCUE REPORT - 27

