



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2007 07-54

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Rescued by Helicopter from Mount Moran

Grand Teton National Park rangers used a Teton interagency contract helicopter to rescue an injured climber from the CMC route on Mount Moran early Sunday morning, July 29. Alison Arnold, age 53, of Laramie, Wyoming injured both ankles and received a minor head wound after taking a 15-foot tumbling fall about 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 28.

The accident occurred when Arnold and two climbing partners were descending the CMC route on Mount Moran early Saturday evening. As they approached the notch near Drizzlepuss, Arnold—who was temporarily unroped and not wearing a helmet at the time—slipped and took a tumble. Arnold landed on her backpack and a coil of rope, which likely protected her from further injury. Arnold’s climbing partners were able to get her roped up again, and she climbed up to the Drizzlepuss notch. The trio then descended another 100 feet before deciding to bivouac for the night. Another climbing party ascending the CMC route early Sunday morning came upon Arnold and her companions. The climbing party had a cell phone with them and made a call for assistance.

Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received the call for help at approximately 8:15 on Sunday morning. An interagency contract helicopter, doing an over flight for possible new fires in the area, was diverted to assist with an aerial evacuation of the injured climber.

Two park rangers were flown from Lupine Meadows and inserted by the short-haul technique to Arnold’s location on Mount Moran. When there is no suitable spot to land a helicopter, the short-haul method is used to place rescue personnel, who are suspended below the helicopter by a double rope system, into a location near the patient; the injured person is then secured into either an evacuation suit or a rescue litter to be airlifted for a short flight to another landing spot where the ship can safely touch down. After rangers provided medical care to Arnold on site, she was placed into an evacuation suit and flown in tandem with an attending ranger to the Lupine Meadows rescue facility on the valley floor. Arnold was then transported by park ambulance to St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson where she was treated and released.

This marks the tenth major search and rescue operation in Grand Teton National Park this year.

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