



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Injured Climber Rescued by Helicopter from Grand Teton

Grand Teton National Park rangers used a Teton interagency contract helicopter to rescue an injured climber from the Grand Teton on Wednesday evening, August 15. Vladimir Wojnar, age 56, of Green Bay, Wisconsin and his nephew, Matej Bosak, age 23, of De Pere, Wisconsin, had summited the Grand Teton using the Owen-Spalding route and were using a rope to descend Sargeant's Chimney when Wojnar fell 15-20 feet and sustained injuries to his head, right arm and elbow.

Bosak used his cell phone to call 911, and the call was routed to the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center around 3 p.m. A park ranger on a routine climbing patrol in the area hastened his ascent to the Lower Saddle of the Grand Teton. An Exum guide, also in the area, volunteered to assist and hiked towards the Lower Saddle with the ranger. Based on Wojnar's location, the nature of his injuries, and the time of day, a Teton interagency contract helicopter was summoned to make a reconnaissance flight and deliver two park rangers to the Lower Saddle to begin staging a rescue operation. Two additional rangers hiked to the Lower Saddle on foot and the helicopter was subsequently used to transport four more rangers, with rescue gear, to the Lower Saddle. Park rangers reached Wojnar around 5:15 p.m.

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 emergency medical care to Wojnar just below the summit of the Grand, he was placed into a litter and short-hauled from Sargeant's Chimney to the Lower Saddle. Rangers were then able to place the litter inside the helicopter and Wojnar was flown to the Lupine Meadows rescue facility on the valley floor just after 8 p.m. Wojnar was transported by park ambulance to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment of his injuries.

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