



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 from Symmetry Spire

Grand Teton National Park rangers used a Teton interagency contract helicopter on Tuesday afternoon, September 11, to rescue an injured climber from the base of Jensen Ridge on Symmetry Spire, just north of Cascade Canyon. Alan Kliger, age 49, from Toronto, Canada, dislocated his shoulder while ascending the spire on a guided climb with Exum Mountain Guides. He was evacuated after his guide lowered him about 300 feet to the ridge base, which greatly assisted the evacuation by placing him in a better location for the rescue operation.

The guide used his cell phone to call the Exum Mountain Guides' office, and rangers responded after Exum staff relayed the message at 1:30 p.m. By 2:30 p.m., the helicopter was en route to insert a park ranger via the short-haul technique onto the 9,500 foot-elevation ledge where the climber was located. After the ranger placed Kliger in a short-haul evacuation suit, the injured man was flown to Lupine Meadows, arriving there at about 4:00 p.m. A park ambulance then transported him to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson for treatment.

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.

This marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> major search and rescue operation in Grand Teton National Park this year. Not all of the 2007 major rescue operations involved the use of a contact helicopter.

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