



GET HELP GUIDE

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Role: Prepare to call/go for SAR support, if needed.

1. Consider proactively notifying 911/SAR just in case.

- 1 a. Determine most **effective** means: Cell? Text? PLB? Satellite Messenger? Hike-out?
- 1.b. If electronic communication is not possible:
 - Assess resources for hike-out (min. 2 hikers).
 - Consider abilities, fitness, navigational skills, terrain difficulties, and expected weather.

In any case, develop a plan based on:

- SAR Report Record and/or First Aid Verbal Report

2. Review findings and recommendations with Incident Manager. Incident Manager makes decision.

3. If a hike-out is needed:

- Select and plot out route to trailhead.
- Determine incident coordinates (ex. GPS lat/long).
- Record track and waypoints on the way out.
- Mark track to consider route finding challenges if SAR returns after dark (ex. bright color flagging tape).
- Consider if the least prepared or most unsettled individuals should accompany the Get Help Team.

4. Checklist before departing:

- Review hike-out plan with Incident Manager.
- Review Medical Report Record with Incident Manager and First Aid Team.
- Take photo of Medical Report Record (both sides).
- Take photo of trip participant roster/emerg. Contacts.
- Bring navigational equipment (e.g., map & compass, GPS, smart phone).
- Bring car keys and money.
- Have phone number, radio channel number, or satellite messenger address for all devices at incident site.
- Test communication methods and agree on a check-in timeline to provide updates to Incident Manager.

5. How to choose a helicopter landing zone guideline (HOTSAW):

- Hazards within anticipated landing area (Trees? Cliffs? Flying debris?)
- Obstacles (Power lines? Boulders? Stumps?)
- Terrain (Dirt, firm snow, and grass all ok)
- Slope (Less than 10 degrees for hillside)
- Animals, which includes people (Livestock can be unpredictable with the loud noise?)
- Wind and weather (At least 3 miles visibility?) Wind less than 40 mph with no significant gusting?