



## AAC Publications

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### Grand Teton National Park Accident Summary

Wyoming, Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park has seen an ever-growing influx of visitors, along with an ever-growing number of accidents. Photo fortherock

**A special thanks goes out to Teton County Search and Rescue (TCSAR), who reported 16 climbing-related rescues and/or responses in 2025, all in the Teton Range. This includes Grand Teton and its approaches, Teewinot, Middle/South Teton, Nez Perce, and Garnet Canyon.** TCSAR's list is an effective substitute for our annual NPS Grand Teton National Park report. A recent NPS directive prohibits the sharing of incident information. For more details and a complete report, search: "teton county sar rescue reports".

Teton County Search and Rescue provides the aviation assets to Grand Teton National Park. They have shared their collected incident summaries in order to provide lessons learned and highlight decision-making and preparedness in the backcountry. Courtesy Teton County SAR

#### **In chronological order:**

**June 14** — Teewinot, East Face: Two of three climbers were injured in a fall on snow. Between them they had one ice axe and one set of crampons. Short-hauled to Lupine Meadow.

**Jun 21** — Petzoldt Caves: A male climber (30) had knee injury. Short-hauled to Lupine Meadow.

**Jun 30** — Lower Saddle: Two of three climbers fell on snow ascending to the Lower Saddle. A male climber (20) had an ankle injury. Helicopter evacuation.

**Jul 24** — Open Book, Garnet Canyon: A male climber (31) had lower-leg injury. The party self-rescued to base. The injured climber was short-hauled to Lupine Meadow.

**Jul 29** — Grand Teton: A male climber (57) suffered an open ankle fracture. short-hauled off the mountain and to a waiting ambulance.

**Aug 3** — Middle Teton, SW Couloir descent: A female climber (22) suffered a broken ankle. After a night rescue and sunrise evacuation, she was flown to a waiting ambulance.

**Aug 6** — Teewinot: A male climber (64) was short-hauled to Lupine Meadow after a helicopter was diverted from a missing-climber search.

**Aug 14** — Garnet Canyon: A male climber (35) was stranded in technical terrain. Self-extricated.

**Aug 23** — Petzoldt Caves: A female climber (81) suffered a head injury from a fall descending the Grand. Short-hauled to a waiting air ambulance in Lupine Meadow.

**Aug 23** — Garnet Canyon: A male climber (21) had a head and wrist injury after a fall on snow descending Middle Teton. Short-hauled to an ambulance in Lupine Meadow.

**Sep 3** — Nez Perce: A male climber (19) fell on snow after going off route toward South Teton. Short-

hailed to an ambulance in Lupine Meadow.

**Sep 5** — Otterbody Chimney, Grand: A male climber (22) became stranded and overnigheted at Lower Saddle. Short-hauled to an ambulance in Lupine Meadow.

**Sep 5** — Eye of the Needle, Grand: A male climber (57) was injured (concurrent with the Otterbody call). Short-hauled to an ambulance in Lupine Meadow.

**Sep 6** — Briggs Slab: A female climber (31) suffered a head injury from rockfall on the Upper Saddle approach. Short-hauled to an ambulance in Lupine Meadow.

**Sep 6** — Petzoldt Caves: A male climber (57) suffered a knee injury descending the Grand.

**Sep 16** — Grand Teton summit: Four climbers were unable to descend over snow/ice; short-hauled to Lupine Meadow at first light.

**Some Factors:**

\*Inadequate gear: The June 14 Teewinot party had one axe and one set of crampons for three climbers. The single most teachable incident in the set.

\*Descent is the danger phase. A majority of injuries occurred descending or post-summit, not on the way up—the recurring ANAC pattern.

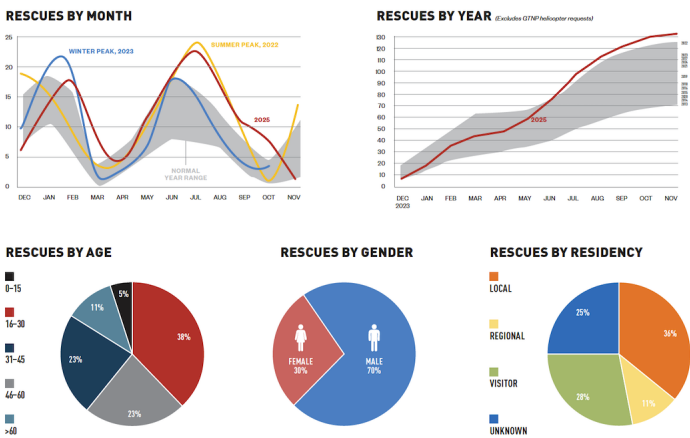
\*Very wide age range, 19 to 81, had real clustering at both ends: Teens/early-20s had experiential mishaps such as falls on snow and off-route strandings. The 50s–80s group suffered from knee issues and falls on descent. (Source: Teton County Search and Rescue.)

Images



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INCIDENTS BY THE NUMBERS



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