



March 2, 2016
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Helo-2 Instrumental in Locating Missing Man

(EAGLE RIVER, Alaska) – On March 1, 2016, at approximately 0200 hours, Anchorage Police Department (APD) contacted the Alaska State Troopers to request search and rescue personnel along with search dogs to assist in the search for a man who had left his Eagle River home following a dispute with family members. Prior to contacting AST, the Anchorage Police Department Search Team conducted a ground search in the area.

Mat-SAR was contacted and sent SAR personnel with K9s to Eagle River where they aided in tracking the missing man up a mountain trail near his last known location. The search dogs lead searchers up a trail before the scent was lost. While the dogs did not find the man, their work aided immensely in pointing searchers toward the direction he was eventually found.

APD contacted Troopers four hours later after K9s lost the track for the man. Air support was requested for the search. AST assumed primary responsibility for the SAR and launched Helo-2 with a Trooper, and eventually an APD officer, onboard to help with spotting. Helo-2 arrived in the search area about 10 minutes before 9:00 in the morning.

“We weren’t finding signs of him for a while; finally, we spotted a dark object. I didn’t know what it was but I watched it for a bit then it started moving,” said Alaska State Trooper Lieutenant Bryan Barlow. “He must have heard the helicopter and came out because he had been under a cluster of windblown spruces. We wouldn’t have seen him otherwise.”

The man was wet but uninjured and very happy to see the searchers. They gave the man water, a hat, some gloves and a blanket to get warm while Helo-2 transported him to the staging area on the other side of the mountain.

“He went for quite a hike. From where he started, he went up and over the mountain ridge and down into another valley,” said Lt. Barlow. “Having the helicopter launch was crucial to finding him before it was too late.”

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