

# DPS Helo-2 Rescues Injured ATV Rider

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On September 12, 2017 Alaska State Troopers in Fairbanks received a report of an injured ATV rider approximately 20 miles outside of Fairbanks. The injured rider had collided with another ATV, been thrown off, and ended up pinned beneath an ATV. A former army medic riding with the group advised AST Dispatch that the injured person had numerous injuries as well as trouble breathing. Troopers requested Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire provide an EMT and medical equipment to assist. Officer Derek Cottle accompanied Trooper Zac Johnson aboard Helo-2, piloted by DPS Pilot Leon McInelly.

Helo-2 found the scene of the incident but was unable to locate anywhere in the vicinity to land. Pilot McInelly found a small clearing atop a hill where he could nose the helicopter in, but could not fully touch down. Officer Cottle and Trp. Johnson conducted a “hot off load,” disembarking and removing their equipment while Pilot McInelly kept the helicopter steadied. Officer Cottle and Trp. Johnson then made their way on foot and bushwhacking through rough terrain. Helo-2 found an area to stage approximately a mile away. Once on scene, Officer Cottle evaluated the injured ATV rider and stabilized him for transport. Trp. Johnson directed the people on scene to help clear a landing zone for the helicopter.



After a suitable landing zone was cleared, Helo-2 returned to the area, landed, and the patient was safely loaded aboard. Helo-2 flew directly from the scene to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, where the patient was moved to the Emergency Department for further treatment.

The persons accompanying the injured rider were able to draw on their military experience in providing treatment to their injured friend and in creating a suitable landing zone for the helicopter. The coordinated efforts of the Alaska State Troopers, Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire Department, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, and the public were essential in the success of this mission.

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