



Converse County Sheriff's Office

Boxelder Canyon Rescue

On August 14th at about 1930 hours the Converse County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) responded to Boxelder Canyon south of Glenrock for an injured hiker at the bottom of the canyon. Converse County Search and Rescue was immediately deployed. Sheriff's Deputies, Converse County Search and Rescue, Glenrock Fire Department, Emergency Management and Glenrock EMS were the initial first responders. Searchers had to navigate extremely rough terrain which dropped 500 feet in elevation the first 500 yards traveled. The distance to the victim was ½ mile and 612 feet below the staging area. The rescue included repelling over rock ledges and traversing swift water in darkness. At about 0100 hours Search and Rescue found the injured 39-year-old male who had slipped and fell over a waterfall. The victim was stabilized, and the rescuers settled in for a cold camp and early morning airlift of the victim. The Wyoming National Guard accepted the mission of lifting the patient out by helicopter. At about 0900 hours the morning of August 15th the victim was airlifted and transferred to the waiting Glenrock Ambulance.

Rescuers began the 612-foot vertical ascent to the staging area. At 1323 hours the Converse County SAR Team was loading equipment at the staging area. They were advised of another first responder climbing out of the canyon who was suffering a heat related medical emergency and had lost consciousness. At 1400 hours this became a second rescue for a rescue team already 18 hours into this grueling mission. Douglas EMS, Douglas Fire Department, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Classic Air, Forest Service Firefighters, more deputies, and volunteers joined the rescue. The Wyoming National Guard once again accepted the mission to return and provide the lift helicopter to get the second patient out of the canyon. At about 1919 hours, and about 24 hours after the incident had begun, the Wyoming National Guard landed at the staging area and transferred the patient to the Glenrock Ambulance. The Ambulance transported him a short distance to the awaiting Classic Air helicopter to be flown to the hospital in Casper.

Sheriff Clint Becker would like to thank all agencies, the citizen volunteers, and Tate Johnston who offered his horse to pack equipment out so tired rescuers didn't have to. Thank you to DJ Gonzalez, the first patient's friend who had hiked out and called for help and then lead rescuers back to his injured friend.

This was a successful rescue due to the dedication of many Wyoming Emergency First Responders, Joint Communications, Glenrock Communications, volunteers, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, Wyoming National Guard, trained Converse County Deputies and Search and Rescue Team.