

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





CCMR, CCVSAR, & CCSO Working Together: Colchuck Lake Spinal Injury

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	03
ABOUT CCMR	04
BOARD AND TEAM	08
MISSIONS AND INCIDENTS	12
FINANCIALS	18
DONORS AND SPONSORS	19
SUPPORT US	BACK COVER

Report design and editing by Nick Block

All photos are credited to CCMR Members: Nick Block, Chris Gabrielli, Chris Hicks, Nate Hough-Snee, Jake Leonard, Vernon Nelson Jr., Jeff Paton, Sheri Treat.

Cover Photo: Vernon Nelson Jr. climbs to a subject on Cutthroat Peak

From the President

As Clint Eastwood once said, “A man must know his limitations,” and after six years as president of Chelan County Mountain Rescue, I’ve reached mine. 2024 marked my final year in this role, and I couldn’t be more proud of this team. I am excited to step down, knowing that a new group of leaders will continue moving CCMR forward, building on the foundation of excellence we have established.

Leading this team for the past six years has been a whirlwind. What started as a loose-knit group of climbers occasionally responding to rescues has evolved into a highly skilled, tightly bonded family that trains hard, plays harder, and has executed some truly incredible and inspiring missions. I am immensely proud of how much we’ve grown—not only in our capabilities but in our ability to keep both our patients and ourselves safe.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible people who make CCMR what it is. To all the team members who have sacrificed their time, sweat, and tears to ensure that others make it home safely—thank you. Your passion and commitment inspire me every day. To our families, who patiently wait through late-night callouts, canceled plans, and the unpredictable, always-on-call schedule—your support is what makes this possible. I especially have to thank my beautiful wife, Tawnya, who (not always without some complaining) has supported me in my efforts with CCMR and taken care of the house and family while I’ve been in the field.

The past six years have been full of lessons for me, and as much as the team has grown, I have grown even more. I’ve learned a lot about human resilience, about why people do what they do – some of it inspiring, some of it not. I’ve grown as a leader, learning when to make hard decisions, when to listen and support, and when to be decisive.

As I step back from leadership, I look forward to focusing more on my wife, the job that actually pays my bills, my own climbing, and my dog, KangaRoo. I remain committed to CCMR in any way I can and will continue serving as a lead rescue tech and trainer. The responsibility of leading a volunteer organization is immense, and for now, I won’t miss that weight. If you know someone who runs any kind of organization – especially one for free – buy them dinner and a drink. Trust me, they’ve earned it!

Thank you to everyone who has supported me, our team, and our mission.

It has been an honor.



Vernon Nelson Jr.

Outgoing President,
CCMR (2018-2024)

About CCMR



CCMR and OCSAR Prep for Extraction of Subjects: Cutthroat Peak Mission April 28th

Our Mission



Chelan County Mountain Rescue is dedicated to saving lives through search, rescue, emergency medical care and mountain safety education in Chelan County, Washington and surrounding areas.

WHY WE EXIST

The Chelan County Sheriff's Office is the agency responsible for coordinating backcountry rescues within the county.

Many search and rescue incidents are handled by Chelan County Volunteer Search and Rescue (CCVSAR). However, the resources and specialized training required for conducting technical rock and ice rescues along with emergency medical care, and navigating challenging terrain year-round often exceed the capacity of these groups.

Chelan County Mountain Rescue bridges this gap, offering expertise for technical rescues beyond the capabilities of the Sheriff's staff and local ground SAR teams.

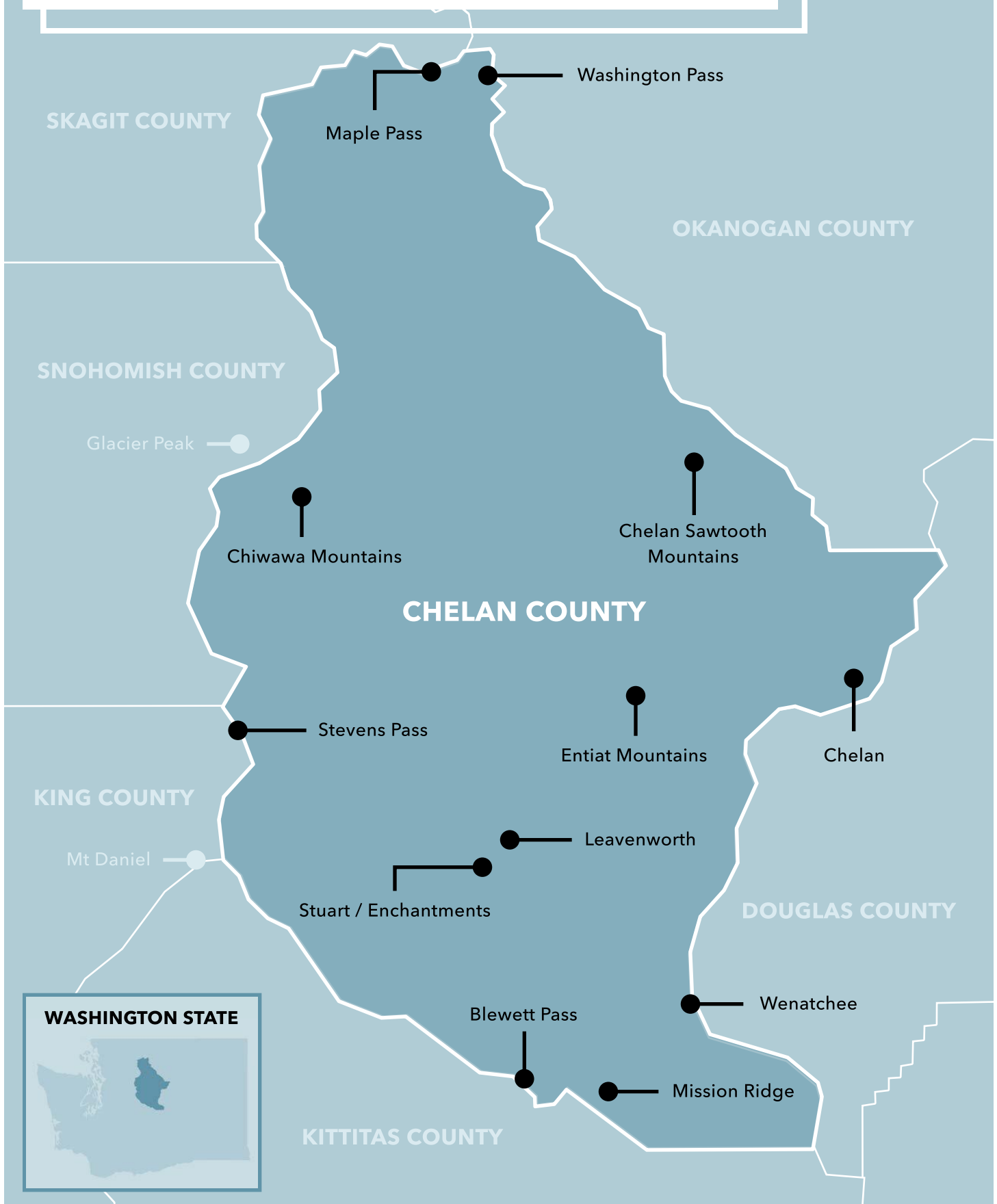
WHY WE DO IT

Travel in the mountains comes with risk, and sometimes things go wrong, even when you've done everything right. What happens if there's no one to call? Our members know how important it is to have rescue services available, and so we pay it forward.

As experienced climbers, backcountry skiers, mountain travelers, and medical professionals, our team recreates in our region and we care about the safety of our community and each other.

We are dedicated to being a reliable resource when things go wrong. We help those who may be having their most difficult day in the mountains.

Where We Operate



Our Service Area

5.8 MILLION

RECREATION USERS IN WA STATE*

2,994

SQUARE MILES IN
CHELAN COUNTY

25

ACTIVE CCMR
MEMBERS IN 2024

IF ITS OUT
THERE, WE'LL
GO THERE

ROCK
ICE
SNOW
GLACIER
ALPINE

CCMR'S SMALL BUT CAPABLE TEAM HANDLES A LARGE SERVICE AREA

Our service area is big! From The Enchantments, to Stevens Pass, to WA Pass, CCMR covers some of the most sought after northwest areas for outdoor recreation.

With millions of outdoor users living within a few hours of our county, our small but capable team was able to meet the demand for rescues in 2024.

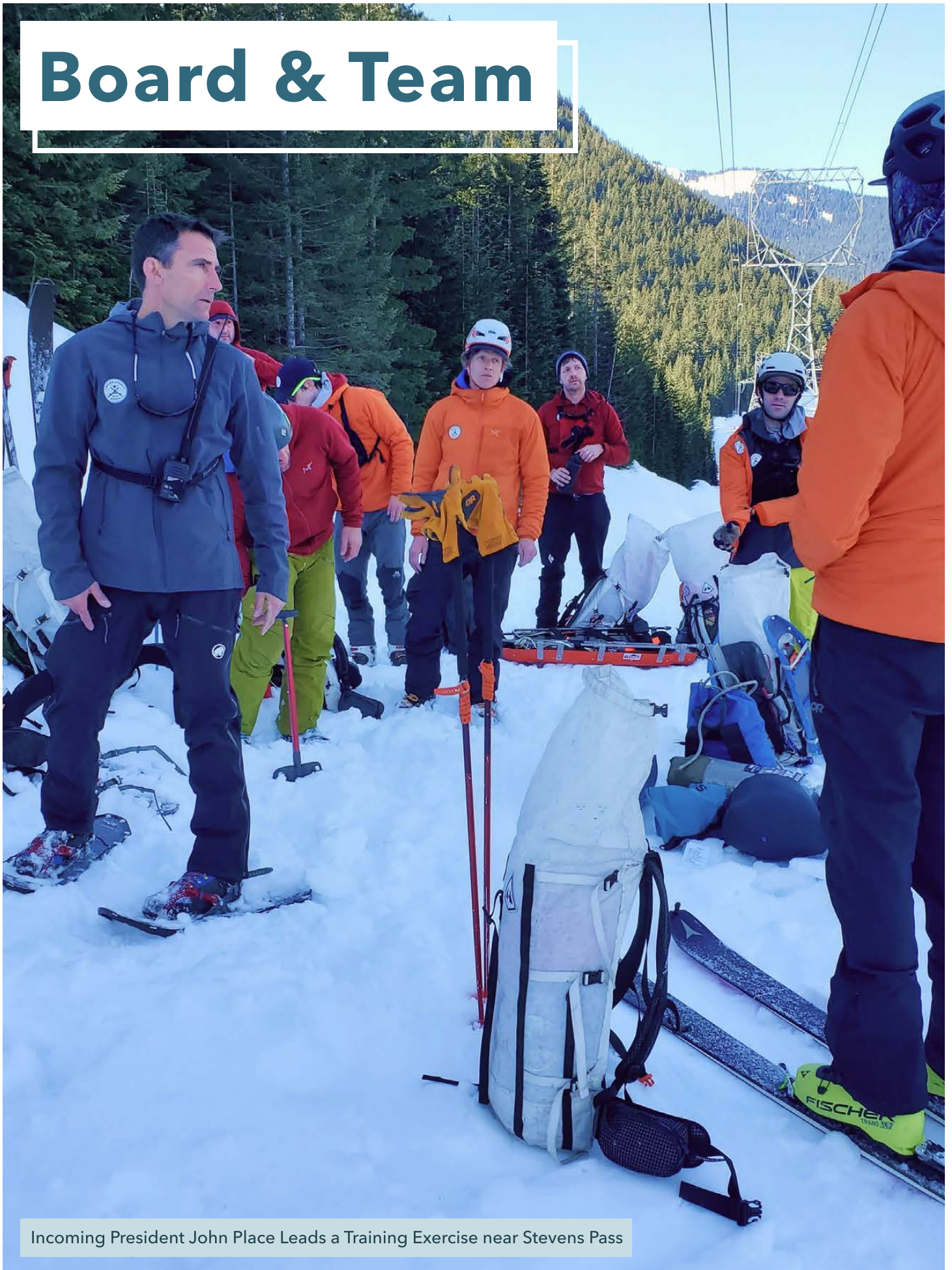
CCMR is able to meet demand because our team members are experienced and well travelled in mountain environments and train to be mission ready to respond when called - 24/7, 365 days a year.



Chris Hicks Sets Up High Angle Rigging

* Approximate, Based on Outdoor Industry Association 2017 Outdoor Trends Report

Board & Team



Incoming President John Place Leads a Training Exercise near Stevens Pass

CCMR Members

In 2024 our team was comprised of 25 active members, including three new members approved by the board in the fall.

Our board is made up of active team members who serve three year terms.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Vernon Nelson Jr.

Treasurer

Jeff Paton

Members at Large

Dave Allyn

Tom Ettinger

Jacob Leonard
(Incoming VP, 2025)

Mike Peterson

John Place

(Incoming President, 2025)

Matt Treat

Vice President

Sheri Treat

Secretary

Sheri Treat

TEAM MEMBERS

Operations Leaders

Matt Jones

Jake Leonard

Vernon Nelson Jr.

John Place

Nathan Richman

Field Team

Trey Alderman

Dave Allyn

Shawn Ballard

Nick Block

John Dykes

Tom Ettinger

Chris Gabrielli

Chris Hicks

Nate Hough-Snee

Jeff Paton

Mike Peterson

Jason Schilling

Ryan Swan

Matt Treat

Sheri Treat

Dan Young

Marissa Young

New Members

Daniel Conrad

Luke Dixon

Ian Mock

Training



How We Train

DEDICATION IN TRAINING, EXCELLENCE IN RESCUE

Each year, CCMR volunteers invest hundreds of hours honing skills to ensure fast and competent rescues in Chelan County's rugged terrain. Our members train year-round—meeting monthly for team exercises and dedicating weekends to advanced training.

In 2024, we completed 23 training activities, covering medical skills, winter and avalanche rescue and terrain management, low and high-angle rigging, gear anchors, helicopter operations, and more. Additionally, we completed the Mountain Rescue Association winter accreditation, reinforcing our commitment to the highest standards in training and ensuring we are prepared with the latest rescue techniques.

To operate effectively in alpine environments no matter the season or conditions, continuous training is essential. Our rigorous training ensures we're always ready to respond when it matters most.

TOTAL TRAININGS

23

TRAINING HOURS

1091

TOP TRAINING TARGETS

First Aid/CPR

Low/High Angle Rigging

Avalanche Rescue

Winter Rescue and Terrain Management



WASHINGTON
MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

MRA WINTER ACCREDITATION

Apr 27, 2024

14 CCMR members joined the WA MRA for the Winter Accreditation event in Snoqualmie Pass. The team was evaluated on winter avalanche rescue, rigging, and terrain management. CCMR passed the evaluation and is now recognized by the Mountain Rescue Association for winter rescue. Thanks to our team for their efforts in achieving this significant milestone!

Missions & Incidents



CCMR Ascends to the Enchantments: Lake Vivian Hiker Assist Mission Nov 2

Our Impact in 2024

In 2024 we saw a decline in overall callouts, largely due to an increase in responses by CCVSAR. Despite this, our mission hours (the time our team was deployed in the field) increased over the prior year. As usual, the Stuart/Enchantments zone was by far our busiest area. 70% of our incidents in 2024 originated from this area.

TOTAL MISSIONS

23

CHANGE FROM 2023

↓ 35%

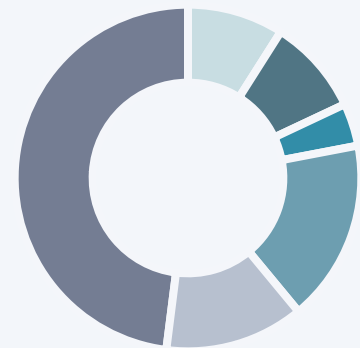
MISSION HOURS

887

CHANGE FROM 2023

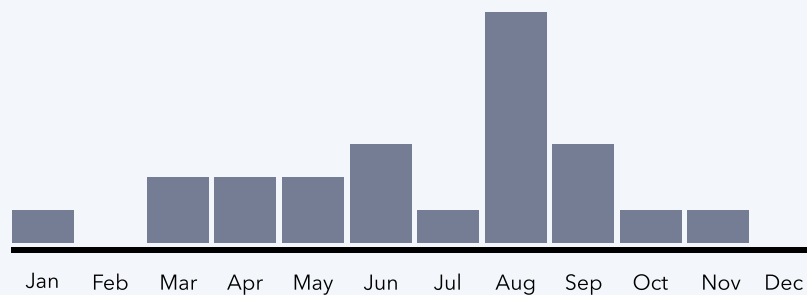
↑ 25%

INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK



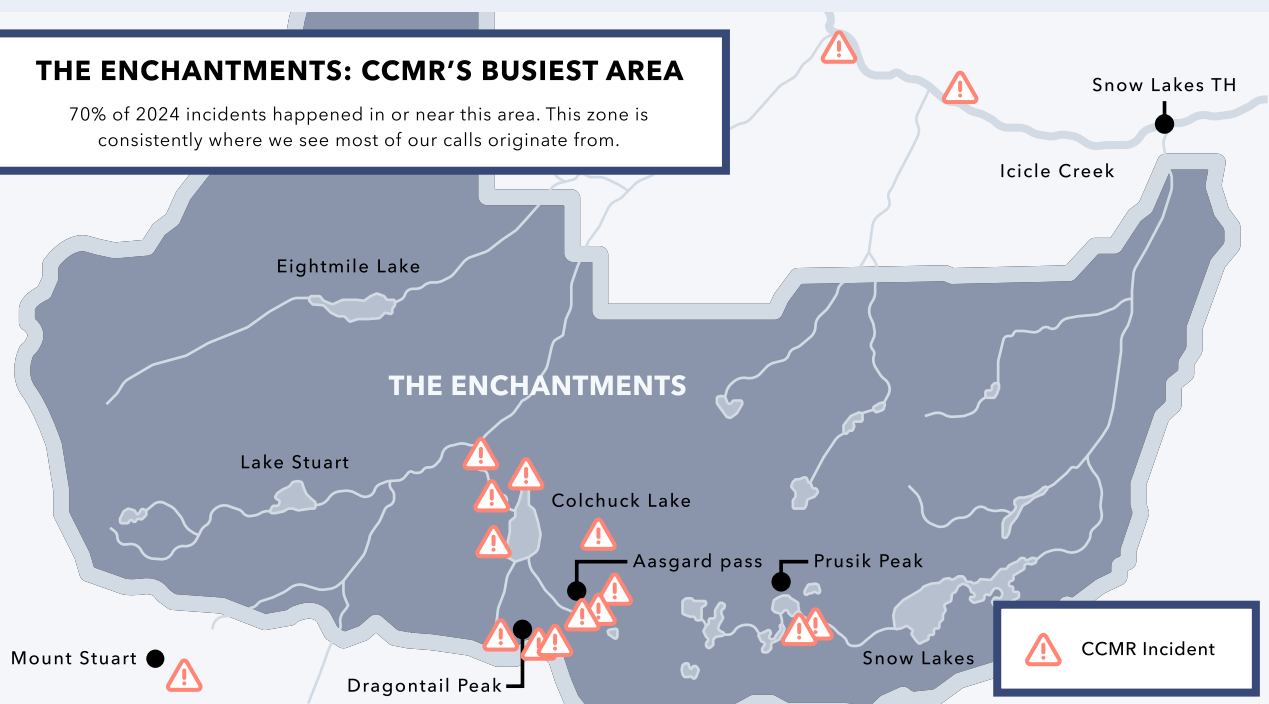
Monday	9%
Tuesday	9%
Wednesday	4%
Thursday	17%
Friday	13%
Weekends	48%

INCIDENTS BY MONTH



THE ENCHANTMENTS: CCMR'S BUSIEST AREA

70% of 2024 incidents happened in or near this area. This zone is consistently where we see most of our calls originate from.



Mission Spotlight



COLCHUCK LAKE SPINAL INJURY

Date and Time: Aug 24, 1:14AM Number of Team Members: 12

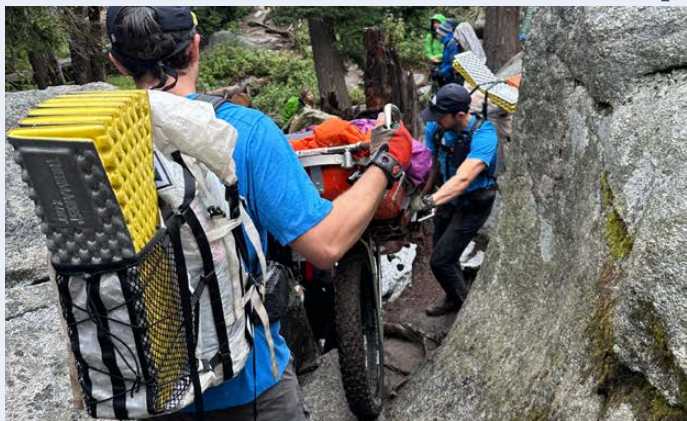
WHAT HAPPENED

In the early hours on a Saturday in August, CCMR was notified of an SOS being activated via cell phone. The SOS reported two hikers had fallen and sustained significant injuries: One subject with a possible head and spinal injury, and a second with a possible hip injury.

CCMR sent in a team of two during the night to assess the situation. It was determined the injuries to the first hiker were extensive and the team requested a helicopter hoist. Weather conditions prevented this, so CCMR requested additional responders to help with a carryout. After hours of moving the patient down the trail, the weather cleared enough to finally hoist via helicopter. The patients were extracted via Army helicopter, and CCMR hiked out.

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

This mission highlighted CCMR's adaptability in the face of uncertainty. When weather delayed the helicopter rescue, responders began a ground evacuation to keep the patient moving toward safety. As conditions improved, the team quickly transitioned to an air extraction, ensuring the patient received timely medical care.



All Missions & Incidents

ISOLATION LAKE HIKER ASSIST

Jan 5 9:48PM

CCMR stayed with a stuck hiker until heli hoist

COLCHUCK OVERDUE HIKERS

Mar 18, 5:00PM | Cancelled-Hoist

Heli hoisted two delayed hikers

LAKE DONALD SKIER

Mar 21, 6:32PM | Cancelled-Hoist

Navy hoist of skier with broken leg

EIGHTMILE MISSING PERSON

Apr 25, 1:38PM | SAR Assist

Search for missing hiker who was found next day

CUTTHROAT PEAK RAPPEL ACCIDENT

Apr 28, 9:47PM

CCMR Moved injured climbers through technical terrain to allow for heli hoist

ICICLE BUTTRESS R&D CLIMBER FALL

May 12, 1:34PM

CCMR lowered an injured climber off the route



Base Jumper Struck Cliff Jun 8

GOAT WALL STUCK CLIMBERS (OKANOGAN)

May 22, 5:35AM | Out of County Assist

CCMR lowered a group of eight stuck climbers, helping them off the route

BASE JUMPER STRUCK CLIFF

Jun 8, 8:11AM

CCMR reached an injured BASE jumper by traversing a cliff and extracting the subject

AASGARD PASS BROKEN HEEL

Jun 13, 5:02PM

CCMR was flown in and performed a raise of an injured hiker to heli extraction

LAKE SALLY ANN HYPOTHERMIA

Jun 29, 7:17PM

CCMR Assisted CCSO with heli extraction

COLCHUCK OVERHEATED HIKER

Jul 16, 8:00PM

CCMR and a medic assisted patient and moved to heli extraction where they were flown out



Aasgard Pass Broken Heel Jun 13

All Missions & Incidents

BUCK CREEK PASS OVERDUE HIKERS

Aug 3, 10:02AM | SAR Assist

Located and assisted hikers back to trailhead

AASGARD PASS

Aug 17, 12:03PM | Cancelled

COLCHUCK LAKE SPINAL INJURY

Aug 24, 1:14AM

Transport and heli extract of injured parties

COLCHUCK LAKE BROKEN ANKLE

Aug 25, 3:36PM | SAR Assist

CCMR members came across injured person and requested evac via SAR and eventual hoist

DRAGONTAIL PEAK STUCK CLIMBERS

Aug 26, 1:31PM

CCMR flew in to make contact with climbers who ended up not needing rescue

SNOW CREEK GLACIER FALLEN CLIMBER

Aug 29, 9:33AM

Heli hoisted a climber who fell 500'



Aasgard Pass Broken Heel Jun 13



Viviane Lake Hiker Assist Oct 18

COLCHUCK BALANCED ROCK STUCK ROPE

Aug 30, 2:58PM | Cancelled

Stuck climbers were able to self rescue

DRAGONTAIL BACKBONE ANKLE INJURY

Sep 8, 2:15PM | Cancelled-Hoist

Heli hoisted the injured climber

MT. STUART LOST CLIMBERS ASSIST

Sep 24, 5:48PM

Helped two climbers lost on descent, provided food, water, headlamps, and guidance back to camp.

MISSING PERSON (KITITAS)

Sep 28, 5:40AM | Out of County SAR Assist

Assisted with search of missing person

VIVIANE LAKE HIKER ASSIST

Oct 18, 10:16PM

Assisted hikers unprepared for weather/overnight. Hiked out next day with them

VIVIANE LAKE HIKER ASSIST

Nov 2, 7:34AM

Assisted hikers stuck due to snowfall on route.

Mission Spotlight



CUTTHROAT PEAK RAPPEL ACCIDENT

Date and Time: Apr 28, 9:47PM Number of Team Members: 8

WHAT HAPPENED

What Happened: Two climbers both in need of a rescue due to a rappelling accident. One climber with a broken leg and the other climber stranded on a cliff with out a rope.

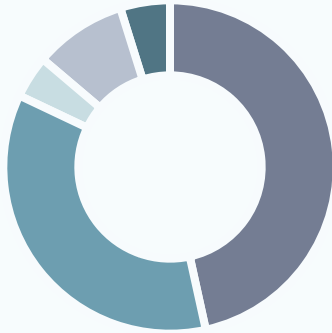
Due to the remote location and distance from our team the Navy was requested to attempt a hoist but weather prevented it. CCMR teams were able to ascend to the climbers and move them to a location where the Navy was able to hoist the injured climber the next morning.

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

CCMR's field teams had to travel a significant distance to WA Pass and reach climbers in a remote area in poor conditions. The mission was a success both because of effective communication with the Navy and other SAR partners, combined with our teams ability to climb quickly in technical rock, ice, and snow terrain.

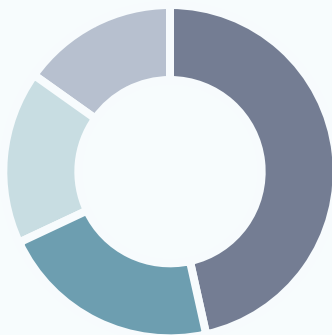


Financials



Total Revenue: \$45,079

Donations	\$20,985	47%
Grants	\$16,000	35%
Fundraisers	\$1,868	4%
Leavenworth Ambassadors	\$4,050	9%
Other	2,176	5%



Total Expenses: \$27,600

Clothing/Uniforms	\$12,838	47%
Equipment	\$5,934	21%
Training/Meetings	\$4,642	17%
Admin	\$4,186	15%

2024 FINANCIALS

In 2024 we received donations from our community in addition to several grants from The Community Foundation of NCW and GESA Credit Union. We raised funds by participating in the Leavenworth Ambassadors Program - a community outreach effort spearheaded by the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce to help educate and inform visitors to the area. Finally, we received proceeds in early 2024 from a 2023 fundraiser at Icicle Brewing Company. Thank you to all of our partners for your support!

WHY DOES A VOLUNTEER TEAM NEED MONEY?

Though we're a volunteer organization, funding is essential. We minimize administrative costs to prioritize training, equipment, and mission readiness. While we rely on in-house training, we also bring in experts to maintain industry standards. Financial support ensures our team has the resources needed to operate safely and effectively.

This is why donations make a real impact. Funding from donations helps us train to save lives, equip our team with critical gear, and respond swiftly to emergencies. Every dollar contributes to safer rescues, better-prepared volunteers, and a stronger community. Community support ensures we're ready when people need us most.

Donors and Sponsors

2024 DONORS

Tiffanie Beal
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Sam Roberts
Susan C Shell
John Searight
Matt & Sheri Treat
Mark Westmoreland
Community Foundation of NCW-Give NCW

And thank you to all of the other donors who chose to give anonymously.

2024 COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Thank you to the Community Foundation of NCW and GESA Credit Union for supporting CCMR in 2024 through generous grants, and to the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce and their Ambassadors Program!



BECOME A SPONSOR!

Support from businesses and organizations in our community helps us continue fulfilling our mission to save lives in Chelan County and beyond. Sponsors help us fund important equipment and training needs that allow CCMR to operate effectively.

If your organization would like to support CCMR, please email us!

info@chelanmountainrescue.com

Support CCMR



SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF SAVING LIVES IN CHELAN COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

WAYS TO DONATE

- Scan the QR code to the right
- Text "CCMR" to 44-321
- Visit our website:

<https://home.chelanmountainrescue.com/home/donate>



CONNECT WITH CCMR



Facebook

@ChelanCountyMountainRescue



Instagram

@ChelanCountyMR



Email

info@chelanmountainrescue.com



Website

chelanmountainrescue.com

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

CCMR would not be able to fulfill our mission without the tremendous support of our partner organizations that exemplify teamwork and professionalism. We are thankful for the support on missions this year from the following organizations:



CASCADE MEDICAL

