



Supporting The Efforts Of Mountain Rescue Operations

vailmountainrescue.org

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Just after 5 p.m. on April 29, Vail Dispatch received a 911 call from two hikers from Avon who were lost in the Cross Creek drainage on the outskirts of Minturn. Leaving from the Cross Creek trailhead off Tigiwon Road at noon, the subjects hiked uphill for approximately five miles and decided to turn back at 3 p.m. due to difficult snow conditions on the trail. Heading downhill, the hikers missed a turn, left the established trail, and bushwhacked down the drainage, following Cross Creek until they could go no further. With darkness approaching and unprepared to spend a night outdoors, they called 911 for help.



Vail Mountain Rescue Group fielded eight members in two teams, one dispatched to the Cross Creek trailhead, another to the trail network on the east bank of Cross Creek at Maloit Park. At around 8 p.m., the Maloit Park team established visual and voice contact with the lost subjects, who were stranded in a marshy area on the opposite side of the snowmelt-swollen creek just west of the park. The second VMRG team was diverted to Maloit Park and together rescuers rigged a highline rope system over a fallen tree spanning the creek. Using the tree as a bridge, rescuers evacuated the hikers--who were cold, wet and exhausted but otherwise uninjured--to vehicles staged at Maloit Park, then to their personal vehicle parked at the Tigiwon Road winter gate. Rescue operations concluded at 10 p.m.

This was VMRG's 38th callout in the 2018 calendar year.

Thank you for continuing to support Vail Mountain Rescue! With great appreciation,

Thomas Howard

President, Friends of Mountain Rescue

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