

# 2011 Sublette County Contract Helicopter



The 2011 Sublette County Contract Helicopter provided by Classic Aviation started work on June 15th and completed the season on September 26th. The primary objective for the helicopter was a tool for Tip Top Search and Rescue. TTSAR used the helicopter 21 times for rescues and search related missions for a total of 58.2 flight hours. Also, a very unique milestone was met by TTSAR with the implementation of the first ever short haul program in the county. 16 people were trained in this unique discipline utilizing 24.1 hours of flight training time. The short haul technique was also used to complete 3 short haul missions using 7.5 flight hours. Another objective of the contract helicopter was to make it available to other counties for search and rescue missions. It was used by other counties 10 times for a total of 23.9 flight hours, of which, 19.3 hours were used by Fremont County. The helicopter was also available for non SAR related work and was used 7 times totaling 17.1 flight hours. This work included repairs to avalanche devices on Teton Pass for WYDOT, removal of plane wreckages in Fremont County, and repeater work in Lincoln County to name a few. In all, the contract helicopter was flown 106.9 flight hours this year including training. There were 25 days that the helicopter was used for over 2 hours which waived the daily fee. The contract was originally for 90 days but was extended for 11 more due to an increase in activity late in the season.





# 2011 Sublette County Contract Helicopter Financial Data



- The total cost of the contract helicopter for 2011 was **\$335,025**.
- Other agencies used the helicopter for a total of 39.3 flight hours. Combined with the cost of the fuel truck, Sublette County was able to bill the other agencies **\$78,878**.
- Sublette County used the helicopter for a total of 40.3 flight hours for search and rescue missions within the county resulting in **\$70,525**, which will be reimbursed by the State of Wyoming search and rescue fund.
- Subtracting the reimbursement from other counties for **\$78,878** and the reimbursement from the State for **\$70,525** it leaves a total cost to Sublette County of **\$185,625** for 102 days of service. This total cost includes 24.1 hours of flight time used for training.



# 2011 Sublette County Contract Helicopter Usage

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- **Other Agency / 6-23-11:** The Sublette County Commissioners took the Governor and the Supervisor for the Bridger Teton National Forest for a flight over the Noble Basin to look at the impact of a proposed drilling project. **1.2 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 7-2-11:** TTSAR responded to a report of a capsized canoe in the Green River near LaBarge with two adults and three small children in the water. An 18 month old boy, an 8 year old boy and their grandfather, were picked up by the helicopter and transported to a nearby ambulance. **1.8 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 7-27-11:** TTSAR responded to Fremont County on a request for a helicopter and possible short haul of a subject with injuries at Spruce Lake. Due to the rugged terrain Fremont County SAR decided that short haul would be the safest evacuation method and TTSAR performed the short haul. **2.9 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 8-4-11:** TTSAR responded to Fremont County on a request for a helicopter and possible short haul of a subject with high altitude complications at Sonnicant Lake. The helicopter was able to land near the subject who was loaded and taken to Lander Hospital. **2.6 flight hours.**
- **Other Agency / 8-10-11:** WYDOT used the contract helicopter to move equipment and personnel to the summit of Glory Bowl on Teton Pass to work on the avalanche control devices. **2.5 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 8-10-11:** TTSAR responded to a call made to the Sublette County Dispatch from climbers on the summit of Gannett Peak reporting that a member of their party fell and slid down a steep snow field towards a large cliff. The group had lost visual on the subject. Fremont County requested TTSAR to do the rescue. TTSAR found the subject in Fremont County and short hauled a person to the site and determined that the subject was deceased. TTSAR then went to Lander to meet with Fremont County Coroner to plan for the removal of the body. **2.1 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 8-11-11:** TTSAR attempted the body recovery at 13,445' on the side of Gannett Peak but high winds did not allow for a safe mission and it was cancelled until the conditions improved. **.8 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 8-13-11:** TTSAR performed the body recovery for the Fremont County Coroner on Gannett Peak. The body was long lined to Crowheart. **2.5 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 8-14-11:** TTSAR responded to Fremont County on a request for a helicopter involving a single engine plane crash. One report put the plane in Sublette County while the other put it in Fremont County. The wreckage of the small plane was found by TTSAR in Fremont County. **3.1 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 8-15-11:** Fremont County Coroner used the helicopter to remove the bodies from the previous day plane wreckage. **3.9 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Duchesne County, Utah / 8-15-11:** Duchesne County Sheriff requested help in extraction of SAR personnel on a search near Roosevelt Utah. The helicopter extracted 5 teams back to their Incident Command and returned home. **4.1 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 8-20-11:** TTSAR responded to a call in regard to an injured person near Bondurant. The subject was carried by hand to

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the helicopter and taken to an ambulance on the highway. **1.3 flight hours.**

- **SAR - Sublette County / 8-21-11:** TTSAR responded to a call in regard to an injured person at Sheep Lake in the Southern part of the Wind River Mountains. The subject was loaded into the helicopter and brought back to the Pinedale Medical Clinic. **.5 flight hours.**
- **Other Agency / 8-24-11:** Beegles Aircraft Services contracted the helicopter to remove the Bucklin plane crash from last October on the back side of Fremont Peak. **4 flight hours.**
- **Other Agency / 8-25-11:** Beegles Aircraft Services contracted the helicopter to remove the plane crash near Black Joe Lake from 8-14-11. **4.6 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 8-29-11:** TTSAR responded to a call for a missing person in the Upper Hoback. The helicopter was used to insert and extract search teams as well as aerial search. **4.4 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 8-30-11:** Upper Hoback Search continued. **3.8 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-1-11:** Upper Hoback Search continued. **4.7 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-2-11:** Upper Hoback Search continued. **4.1 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-3-11:** Upper Hoback Search continued. **3.3 flight hours.**
- **Other Agency / 9-7-11:** Lincoln County contracted the helicopter to take equipment and personnel onto a mountain to work on their repeaters. **2.2 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-8-11:** Upper Hoback Search continued. **3.2 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-9-11:** Upper Hoback Search continued. **6.1 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-10-11:** Upper Hoback Search continued. **4.2 flight hours.**
- **Other Agency / 9-13-11:** WYDOT contracted the helicopter to move equipment and personnel to the summit of Glory Bowl on Teton Pass to work on the avalanche control devices. **2.1 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-10-11:** TTSAR responded to a search for a suicidal person near Beaver Ridge. **2.1 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-18-11:** TTSAR responded to a report of a body in the Upper Hoback. An investigator was flown in and the body was long lined out to the Sublette County Coroner at the South Fork Confluence. **1.5 flight hours.**
- **Other Agency / 9-19-11:** The Sublette County Sheriff's Office used the helicopter for a search and assist in the Jonah Field. **.5 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Fremont County / 9-20-11:** TTSAR responded to Fremont County on a request for a helicopter involving an injured person above Dubois. TTSAR personnel and Fremont County SAR personnel along with EMS were transported to the scene to secure the scene and stabilize the patient. The subject was loaded into an air ambulance and personnel were flown back out. **1.4 flight hours.**
- **SAR - Sublette County / 9-25-11:** TTSAR personnel responded to an area near the Natural Bridge in Clear Creek drainage for an injured person. The subject was loaded into the helicopter and flown to a



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waiting ambulance near the Green River Lakes Campground. **.8 flight hours.**

- **SAR - Lincoln County / 9-26-11:** TTSAR responded to a request from Lincoln County to help find an injured boy. The subject was located before the helicopter arrived to the area. **.5 flight hours.**



September 22, 2011

Tip Top Search & Rescue of Sublette County  
PO Box 400  
138 North Bridger Avenue  
Pinedale, WY 82941

Dear staff of Tip Top Search & Rescue:

We want to commend the responsiveness and expertise of Tip Top Search & Rescue of Sublette County on August 10, 2011, when a member of our group fell from the summit ridge of Gannett Peak. We are aware that significant resources are committed to make available helicopter and trained personnel within a county with a rural dispersed population. We want to briefly share some thoughts about the rescue and recommend continuing funding of this valuable program.

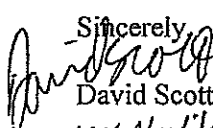
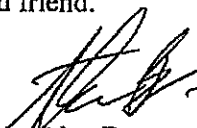
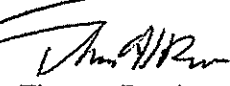

From the time of our cell phone call from the summit, the helicopter was overhead within an hour. While the circumstances of the fall could reasonably be expected to have fatal results, Tip Top Search & Rescue of Sublette County pursued the rescue with speed and diligence to get to our fallen companion for the best chance of rescue and evacuation. We did have some basis for hope, and the performance of the rescue efforts were remarkable to us. The rescuers definitely put themselves on the line in the work they did that day. As two physicians, a teacher, and an outdoor guide, we ourselves have training in medical evacuation, and we were very impressed how expeditiously a tethered rescuer could be placed above a rock wall at the base of a near vertical snow field. When the condition of the body indicated that recovery rather than rescue was the next step, all the interactions were respectful with nice cooperation with authorities in Fremont County where we were located at that time.

On the cell phone when we were completing the call for the search and rescue, Sublette County dispatchers also communicated their concern for our well-being in descending safely, and the searchers made a point of identifying us on the ridge as the helicopter crossed overhead.

We want to recommend that you continue to generously fund a helicopter rescue program in the Sublette County area. Although our experience was tragic, for many in accidents in the mountain environments speed and efficiency are invaluable. Thanks to both the strategic location and the highly trained rescue personnel of Tip Top Search and Rescue, future rescue attempts will save lives and reduce morbidity to those injured.

Again, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to the rescuers and the county for their foresight and attention to training. We felt we were in the best hands anywhere in the continental US for a high-incline rescue. The prompt response and expert abilities have continued to mean a great deal to us in our loss of our father and friend.

Sincerely,

			
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