

New York State Forest Ranger

WILDLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCIDENT REPORT

NY-2026-WS-016

REGION: 5	ZONE: 5C	INCIDENT NUMBER: NY-2026-WS-016	INCIDENT NAME: [REDACTED] Recovery
INCIDENT STATUS: Closed		START DATE/TIME: 02/12/2026 14:58	RESPONSE TYPE: Recovery
ACTIVITY: Hiking	LEAD RANGER: Allison Rooney	SUPERVISOR: Hannah Praczkajlo	
LEAD AGENCY: DEC Forest Rangers		DUTY OFFICER: Sarah Geesler	
INCIDENT COMMANDER: Forest Ranger Allison Rooney			

FOREST RANGER(S) INVOLVED:

Matthew J Savarie, Patrick j Odell, Peter F Morehouse, Gary W Miller, Jenna K Curcio, Neilson J Snye, Nathaniel J Shea, Joseph G Ordway, Jason S Scott, Evan F Donegan, Callee C Baker, David Nally, Robert G Hamm, David P Corey, Allison M O'Connell, Jacob C Jansen, Nathan R Jeffery, Melissa L Milano, Gregory M Bowler, Hannah R Praczkajlo, Allison M Rooney, Andrew S Lewis

OTHER AGENCY /PERSONNEL INVOLVED:

BECI- Lt. Bruno
NYSP Troop B
SP Investigator- Ashley Terry
NYSP Aviation- Paul Engles
FBI CAST- Sam Lizzio
Essex County Coroner

PRIMARY INCIDENT AREA LAND CLASSIFICATION: Forest Preserve STATE LAND MANAGEMENT UNIT NAME: High Peaks Wilderness COUNTY: ESSEX MUNICIPALITY: KEENE ADIRONDACK PARK: YES WILDERNESS AREA INTRUSION: YES CATSKILL PARK: NO	SUBJECT(S) LAST KNOWN POINT LATITUDE: 44.11308 LONGITUDE: -73.92143 ELEVATION: 5226 MAP NAME: Mt. Marcy
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SUBJECT INFORMATION	ACTIVITY	SITUATION	CONDITION
1 [REDACTED]	Hiking	Stranded	Deceased

FINAL INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

0903, 3/4/2026 On February 12, 2026, at 1506 Rangers Rooney and Lewis received notification that a hiker had slid off the Van Ho trail near the summit of Marcy. [REDACTED] Rooney assumed role of IC and attempted to contact the subject for approximately 1 hour without connectivity. At 1549 Rooney requested aviation for an attempt to locate and for possible extraction. Rangers Jansen and Lt. Praczkajlo reported to the Lake Clear hangar for the hoist mission.

At 1603 Rooney had a short phone conversation before the call was dropped. [REDACTED]

FINAL INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Around 1630 Rangers Lewis and Jeffery deployed from South Meadows (SM) TH via snowmobiles. Shortly after, SP aviation launched. SP Pilot Engels approached Marcy from all aspects but severe wind and dense cloud cover made accessing subject location impossible. At 1732 Ranger Jansen was inserted into Marcy Dam (MD) before aviation returned to Lake Clear.

Around 1700 the second wave of Rangers, Corey and Bowler, deployed via snowmobiles from SM TH. They intervened Jansen at MD and continued up the Van Ho trail on sleds together. Trail conditions were challenging for sleds. By 1800 Lewis noted a mechanical failure of his sled near the bottom of the Marcy Ski Trail and transitioned to hiking. Jeffery rolled his machine lower on the trail due to the deep snow and steep side hill. While attempting to extract it, he was met by Corey, Bowler and Jansen and joined their crew. Lewis moved up alone in an attempt to contact the subject as quickly as possible. Ranger Milano was mobilized to tend MD outpost and Hamm and O'Connell, were assigned as a Quick Response Team in the event of a Ranger injury.

At approximately 2100 Lewis reached out to Rooney to talk him into the subject's location. Conditions above tree line were too severe to allow for exposed skin and manipulation of the GPS on his cell phone. Around 2120 Ranger Lewis successfully located the subject. Lewis inspected the subject for signs of life and noted [REDACTED] indicating death. The subject's dog was located alive. Lewis attempted but was experiencing cold challenges and needed to retreat. At approximately 2145 Corey and Jansen obtained control of the dog and moved down the mountain. Jeffery and Bowler intervened Lewis and provided aid. Rooney directed all units to retreat to MD as conditions were too high risk for subject extraction. No photos of the scene were obtained due to the severe conditions.

Units on the mountain arrived at MD between 0015 and 0030 on 2/13. The dog was provided food and water. Consideration was made to find emergency veterinary care but the dog's condition improved as he rewarmed. All units were transported back to SM TH and were clear by 0330. Corey brought the dog to Ray Brook Dispatch to continue recovering until the Lake Placid dog control officer was able to take over care later that morning.

Rooney organized recovery efforts overnight. Aviation was requested due to subject's remote location and two Rangers were assigned to be inserted for hoist extraction. Additional teams were staged at MD if the hoist was unsuccessful. Around 0900, Rangers Savarie and Shea were inserted near the summit of Marcy by Ranger Curcio. The subject was packaged and hoisted successfully around 0940. The subject was transferred to the Essex County Coroner at Lake Placid Airport. Rangers on the summit hiked out on foot. Crews at MD extracted snowmobiles from the night before and continued with demobilization. By 1540 on February 13 all units were clear of the recovery mission.

SUBJECT(S) FOUND LOCATION

LATITUDE: 44.11308 **LONGITUDE:** -73.92143
ELEVATION: 5226 **FOUND IN SEARCH AREA:** NO
MAP NAME: Mt. Marcy

RESCUE/RECOVERY TECHNIQUES USED:

Aircraft evacuation

DIRECT COSTS

Equipment	\$ 0.00
Food	\$ 0.00
Lodging	\$ 0.00
Supplies	\$ 0.00
Temporary labor	\$ 0.00
Transportation	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 0.00

Date 02/12/2026

**Reporting
Ranger** Allison Rooney

APPROVED BY Sarah Geesler