

New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation

Division of Forest Protection

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New York State Forest Ranger

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT (INTERNAL USE ONLY)

REGION: 5		ZONE: 5C		START DATE/TIME: 02/12/2026 14:58	
INCIDENT NUMBER: NY-2026-WS-016			INCIDENT NAME: [REDACTED] Recovery		
RESPONSE TYPE: Recovery					
PRIMARY INCIDENT AREA					
LAND CLASSIFICATION: Forest Preserve			STATE LAND MANAGEMENT UNIT NAME: High Peaks		
COUNTY: ESSEX			MUNICIPALITY: KEENE		
ADIRONDACK PARK: YES		CATSKILL PARK: NO		WILDERNESS AREA INTRUSION: YES	
SUBJECT INFORMATION					
1 [REDACTED]					
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 Praczakajlo, 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					
INCIDENT STATUS UPDATE:					
Date/Time: 02/12/2026 15:05:00 Rangers Assigned: 3 Updated By: Anthony C Hanf Initial Notification: Wednesday 02/12/26 15:05 PM (DFP Notification): DEC Dispatch received a report from Essex Co 911 regarding a hiker and their dog who slipped off the trail near the summit of Mount Marcy. The hiker stated to 911 dispatch that they are unable to get back on the trail. Three Rangers are en route. No additional details are known at this time. Updates to follow.					
Date/Time: 02/12/2026 18:06:00 Rangers Assigned: 10 Updated By: Anthony C Hanf Update #1: Wednesday 02/12/26 18:06 (DFP Notification): 2 Rangers responded via snowmobile from Meadows Lane. NYSP Aviation was requested and approved for hoist rescue. A Ranger hoist operator and Ranger rescuer attempted to locate and access the hiker via NYSP helicopter. The mission was unsuccessful due to heavy cloud cover over Mount Marcy. The Ranger onboard the helicopter was inserted into Marcy Dam Outpost. 2 additional Rangers are responding with snowmobiles and 1 Ranger is transporting a tracked UTV to Marcy Dam Outpost. Physical contact has not been made with the hiker at this time. No additional details are known at this time. Updates to follow.					

INCIDENT STATUS UPDATE:

Date/Time: 02/12/2026 21:19:00 **Rangers Assigned:** 10 **Updated By:** Anthony C Hanf
Update #2: Wednesday 02/12/26 21:51: at 21:19 one Ranger located the hiker deceased. The Ranger retrieved the dog and is moving downhill toward the trail. 2 Rangers are continuing up the mountain to assist the Ranger with the dog. 2 additional Rangers are returning to Marcy Dam Outpost. Extreme conditions make it unsafe for Rangers to remain with the hiker until morning. A total of 10 Rangers responded. BECI was notified by DEC Dispatch. Plans for extraction are underway. Update to follow.

Date/Time: 02/13/2026 10:42:00 **Rangers Assigned:** 10 **Updated By:** David W Mccasland
Update #3 Friday 02/13/26 8:00am: 1 Ranger crew chief and 2 Ranger rescuers responded to NYSP aviation in Lake Clear. 8 Rangers responded to the trailhead for a carry out. Hoist insertion of 2 Rangers to the hiker's location was successful. Rangers packaged the patient on the ground and NYSP pilot and Ranger Crew Chief successfully hoisted the hiker off the mountain. Hiker was transferred to Essex County Coroner at the Lake Placid Airport. The 2 inserted Rangers are hiking out. 6 Rangers are retrieving snowmobiles and equipment from the trail. The dog was transferred to T/O North Elba dog control officer. Update to follow.

Date/Time: 02/13/2026 15:55:00 **Rangers Assigned:** 8 **Updated By:** Anthony C Hanf
Final update: Friday 2/13/26 15:55: all equipment and snowmobiles have been retrieved. All Rangers are clear. Nothing further.

ALBANY DUTY OFFICER: Sarah Geesler

NOTIFIED BY: Hannah Praczkajlo

DATE/TIME: 02/12/2026 15:05

LATEST SIR UPDATED BY: Anthony C Hanf

DATE/TIME: 2/13/26 3:55 PM