

Satellite Phones and Emergency Contact Numbers

There are inherent risks associated with backcountry and river recreation. The Middle Fork of the Salmon River is not suitable for the inexperienced boater. Accidents can happen in seconds, but emergency assistance can take many hours, even days. Self-rescue and survival skills, equipment and preparation are important.

If you have a satellite phone and need emergency assistance, be aware that 911 service is unlikely to work within the wilderness. If you do not have 911 service, you can contact the area Sheriff's Office or Idaho State Communications for assistance in emergency situations. They may then contact us for support.

Custer County Sheriff's Office: 208-879-2232 (upper half of the river corridor)

Lemhi County Sheriff's Office: 208-756-4201 (lower half of the river corridor)

Idaho State Communications: 800-632-8000

Be prepared to describe your location as accurately as possible, and highlight the fact that you are on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River within the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness. Provide the nearest landmark(s), such as campsite, creek, airstrip, river mile and GPS coordinates if possible. Also provide: Nature of Injury, Number of Injured, Age and Weight of Injured. Cost of evacuation is the responsibility of the individual(s).

Emergency Points of Contact and Airstrips

Forest Service Guard Stations are often staffed during the summer months, and Forest Service employees or volunteers usually carry radios that can be used for emergencies. Many of the commercial outfitters (and some private boaters) also carry satellite phones and are willing to help in emergencies. Airstrips and Private landowners are listed here for emergency purposes only.

Boundary Creek Guard Station – River Mile 0.0

Morgan Ranch Airstrip (private) – River Mile 2.0

Pistol Creek Ranch and Airstrip (private) – River Mile 22.4

Indian Creek Guard Station and Airstrip (FS) – River Mile 24.7

Little Creek Guard Station (FS), Thomas Creek Airstrip (State), MF Lodge (private) – River Mile 34

Mahoney Airstrip (FS; high above the river on a bench; not staffed) – River Mile 40.4

Simplot Ranch (private), Lower Loon Airstrip (State) (Lemhi County) – River Mile 49.4

Flying B Ranch and Airstrip (private) – River Mile 67.7

Bernard Guard Station and Airstrip (FS; not staffed) – River Mile 68.2

INCIDENT REPORT

You should file an incident report if your trip had any incidents resulting in:

- evacuation from the river
- personal injury requiring more than first aid
- the death or disappearance of any participant
- widespread illness among trip participants
- property damage greater than \$500
- *unusual* encounters with wild animals
- *extreme* weather encounters resulting in mud flows or significant events
- *hazards* to others, such as downed timber in camps or main river channel
- river wreck resulting in broaches, wrapping or flipped boats causing lost gear, equipment & requiring assistance from others

Notification of a death or disappearance should be made immediately. Notification of any evacuation for serious injury or requiring hospitalization should be reported to the Middle Fork office within 24 hours of the incident at 208-879-4101, with a follow-up written report. If you need more space, you can send an email or use additional paper.

Permit Holder: _____ Trip Start Date: _____

Incident Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Nature of Incident: _____

Incident Occurred: On water _____ In camp _____ Hiking _____ Other: _____

Involved Persons Name(s)	home address	home/cell phone #s	sex	age
#1 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
#2 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
#3 _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Description of incident: (briefly state facts) _____

First Aid and/or medical assistance provided? _____ By Whom? _____

Evacuation required? _____ River assistance provided by: _____

Gear/equipment that is damaged or lost: _____

Wild animal encounter; give full description, colorings, behavior, location: _____

Weather phenomenon causing unusual tree falling, rock rolling, mudslide: _____

Name of reporting person: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Your email: _____ Address: _____

Submit within 7 days of completion of trip to:

Middle Fork Ranger District, 311 N. US Hwy. 93, Challis ID, 83226, email middlefork@fs.fed.us, or fax 208-879-4198.