

# UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Terry L. Rowan

Undersheriff Jim Littlefield



## PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2023

Camp Meadowood Springs, Weston, Oregon

Contact: Captain Sterrin Ward, 541-310-0369

### DAY 1 of REGIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING BEGINS WITH SIMULATED AIRPLANE CRASH

The first day of the 2023 Eastern Oregon Search and Rescue Regional Training took place this Friday afternoon (June 2, 2023) with participants being briefed on a mock scenario of a 1970's Cessna airplane reported as an overdue aircraft. A report from a mock witness also heard the sound of a possible airplane collision near Couse Creek Rd outside of Weston, Oregon. Umatilla County Sheriff's Office "activated" Search and Rescue to search the site, and the training began.

The training is hosted by the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office year at Camp Meadowood Springs near Weston, Oregon. Participants today included Search and Rescue teams from seven counties, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Harney, Gilliam, Baker and Malheur. A special participant this year is the Civil Air Patrol, bringing with them two planes to participate in the training. The training is designed to provide participants an understanding of how they fit and work together during more complex Search and Rescue missions. These more complex missions (depending on the type) can require diverse resource types (such as K-9 teams, aircrafts, water rescue, rope rescue). A successful and well-run search and rescue mission requires participants to have a good understanding of the Incident Command Structure (a standardized approach to the command, control and coordination of emergency responses). Participants at this training are learning about and practicing the roles of the ICS. Mentors (chosen for their knowledge, expertise and experience) are also on hand to lend guidance and instruction as needed.

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The training is purposely designed so that participants are not aware of the scenario details ahead of time. This allows for information to be discovered in a more realistic way. Today searchers were deployed using ground teams, ATV teams and a Drone team. Mock weather reports kept the Civil Air Patrol grounded today. They will get to participate on Saturday. Realistic obstacles were set up during the training to present challenges to searchers, such as locked gates or challenging terrain. Today ground searchers discovered “plane” wreckage, a blue shirt and a glove, but no passengers.

Friday evening was time to reflect, discuss and plan for the next day. Many of the participants are staying on site at Meadowood Camp through the entire training this weekend.

Saturday’s training will escalate as the leaders prepare mission goals for searchers to locate the passengers (or more wreckage) and do a more complete search of the area. Civil Air Patrol will also become involved and (rumor has it) some exciting discoveries have been prepared for the searchers.

This training is intense and can be stressful to those involved. It provides opportunities for some to step into leadership roles they have never done in a real search. Mentors are imbedded in the process to provide guidance and assist if needed. Scenario based training is invaluable when it comes to learning these roles and how to work together efficiently. It pays off greatly when the time comes to work a real search and rescue mission. We are excited about the participation from all those involved and look forward to watching this training progress.

Photos are available at this [link](#). New photos (from the field) will be uploaded on Saturday evening. For more information contact PIO, Sterrin Ward, Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office at 541-310-0369.

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## PRESS RELEASE

June 4, 2023

Camp Meadowood Springs, Weston, Oregon

Contact: Captain Sterrin Ward, 541-310-0369

### **DAY 2 of REGIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING MOCK PLANE CRASH VICTIMS RESCUED and a SECOND MOCK PLANE CRASH DISCOVERED (PHOTOS)**

The second day of the 2023 Eastern Oregon Search and Rescue Regional Training took place all day Saturday (June 3, 2023) ending with searchers rescuing three survivors, recovering a deceased pilot and locating a second plane wreckage.

The morning started earlier with a briefing for all involved in the search and assignments given to specific search teams, including ground search teams, UTV and ATV teams, K9 Teams, drone teams and Civil Air Patrol.

Again, the training scenario was designed to be played out in real time with searchers unaware of details until discovered. At around 11:45 a.m. a K9 team located two survivors (role played by actual persons) with some minor (mock) injuries and diabetic issues. Shortly afterward, the pilot of the first plane was located and had some critical medical issues requiring special extraction from the scene. These survivors provided vital information that their plane had collided with another small plane. The objectives of the mission then changed to begin searching for a second plane and missing pilot. Civil Air Patrol assisted in the search by flying two planes over the search area and all searchers were given new objectives based on the new findings. By the end of the day both the "plane wreckage" and "deceased pilot" were recovered.

Throughout the day, participants had the opportunity to communicate and work together to coordinate a complicated search using many different types of skilled teams, based on the needs of the mission as it evolved.

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At the end of the day, all searchers returned back to base camp for dinner and some quality down time. Tomorrow morning (Sunday) participants will attend training on (and then participate in) an After Action Review. An AAR is a professional discussion of a mission by those involved in the mission. The AAR's purpose is to review what happened on the mission, why it happened, identify and sustain strengths and improve on weaknesses. An AAR is standard practice for all real missions, and is designed to provide an opportunity to learn and improve from every mission.

Again, scenario-based training is invaluable when it comes to learning roles and how to work together efficiently. It pays off greatly when the time comes to work a real search and rescue mission. We want to express thanks to all those involved in this training and encourage anyone interested in Search and Rescue to contact their local Sheriff's Office and inquire about the process to apply.

Saturday Photos are available at this [link](#). For more information contact PIO, Sterrin Ward, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office at 541-310-0369.

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## PRESS RELEASE

June 5, 2023

Camp Meadowood Springs, Weston, Oregon

Contact: Captain Sterrin Ward, 541-310-0369

### **DAY 3 (FINAL DAY) of REGIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING REVIEW of MISSION and BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER from OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

The final day of the 2023 Eastern Oregon Search and Rescue Regional Training wrapped up around noon on Sunday (June 4, 2023). The morning started early with an After Action Review (AAR). An AAR is a professional discussion of a mission by those involved in the mission. The AAR's purpose is to review what happened on the mission, why it happened, identify and sustain strengths and improve on weaknesses. An AAR designed to provide an opportunity to learn and improve from every mission. All participants received instructions on how to conduct an AAR and then participated in the actual AAR for the training mission.

For the final training opportunity, an Oregon Army National Guard Black Hawk medic crew flew in and provided information and instruction on their availability and capabilities to support a search and rescue mission requiring extraction and medical support. Participants were able to interact with the crew, ask questions and check out the interior of the Black Hawk, including an opportunity to sit in the cockpit.

Wrap up included everyone breaking down camp and heading back down the mountain to their other daily lives, until a call for Search and Rescue comes in.

Oregon Law states the sheriff of each county has the responsibility for search and rescue activities within the county and the ability to delegate those responsibilities. Search and Rescue groups are always looking for volunteers to assist with these crucial duties. Often the general public perception of a search and rescue member is the fit ground search person who can hike up high mountains and carry out an injured person. However there

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are many other skill sets needed on a search and rescue team. Volunteers are needed in multiple support roles, such as drone teams, logistics, organization and documentation, radios and communications, even making lunches. An interested person may be surprised how useful and involved they can be. We are searching for people with a heart to serve and the willingness to put in the training and time to be involved.

The morning started earlier with a briefing for all involved in the search and assignments given to specific search teams, including ground search teams, UTV and ATV teams, K9 Teams, drone teams and Civil Air Patrol.

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**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

TP80

















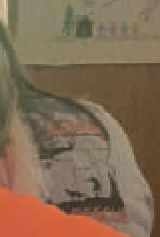
The Year of the Great Escape 1989

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Harney County Search & Rescue



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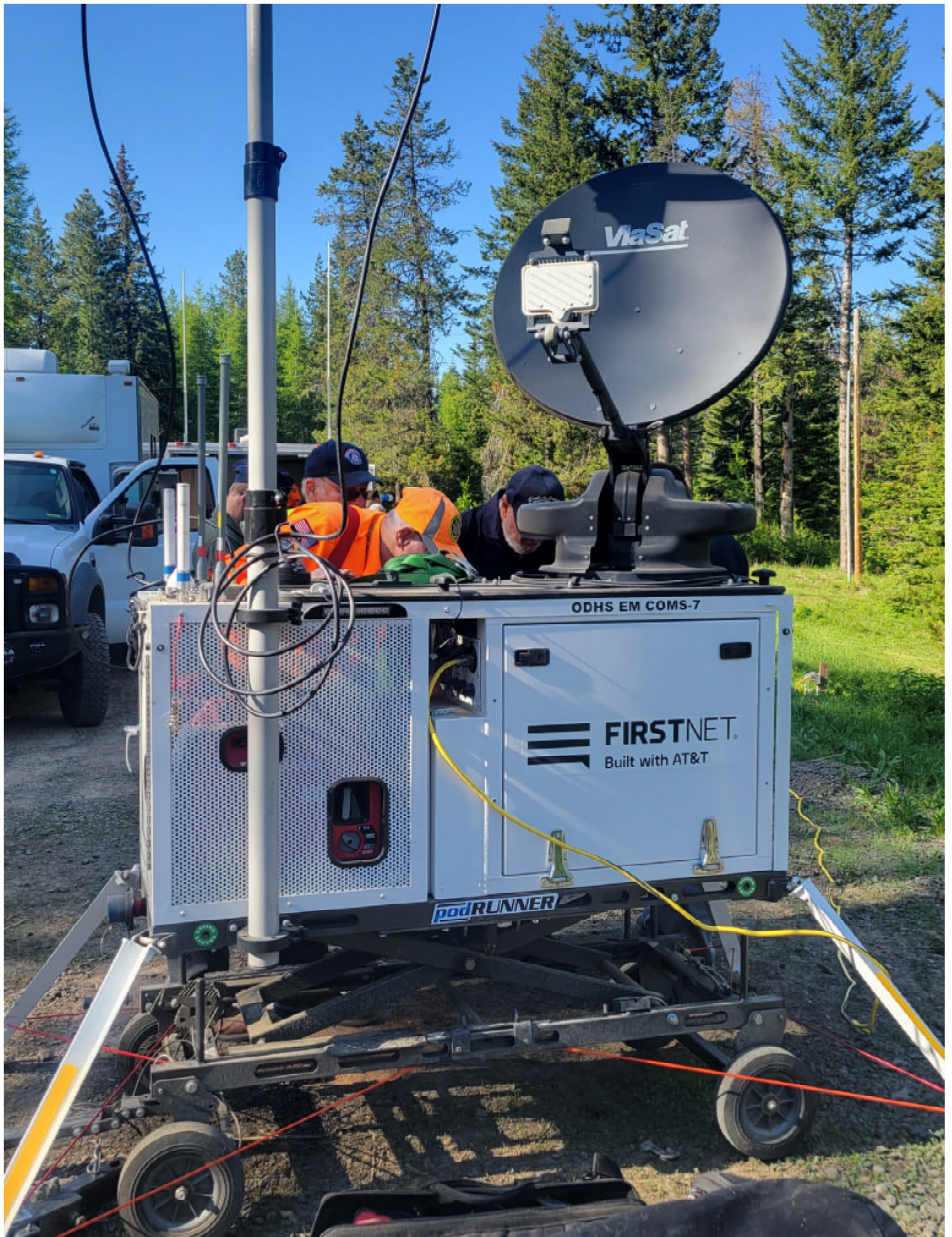




























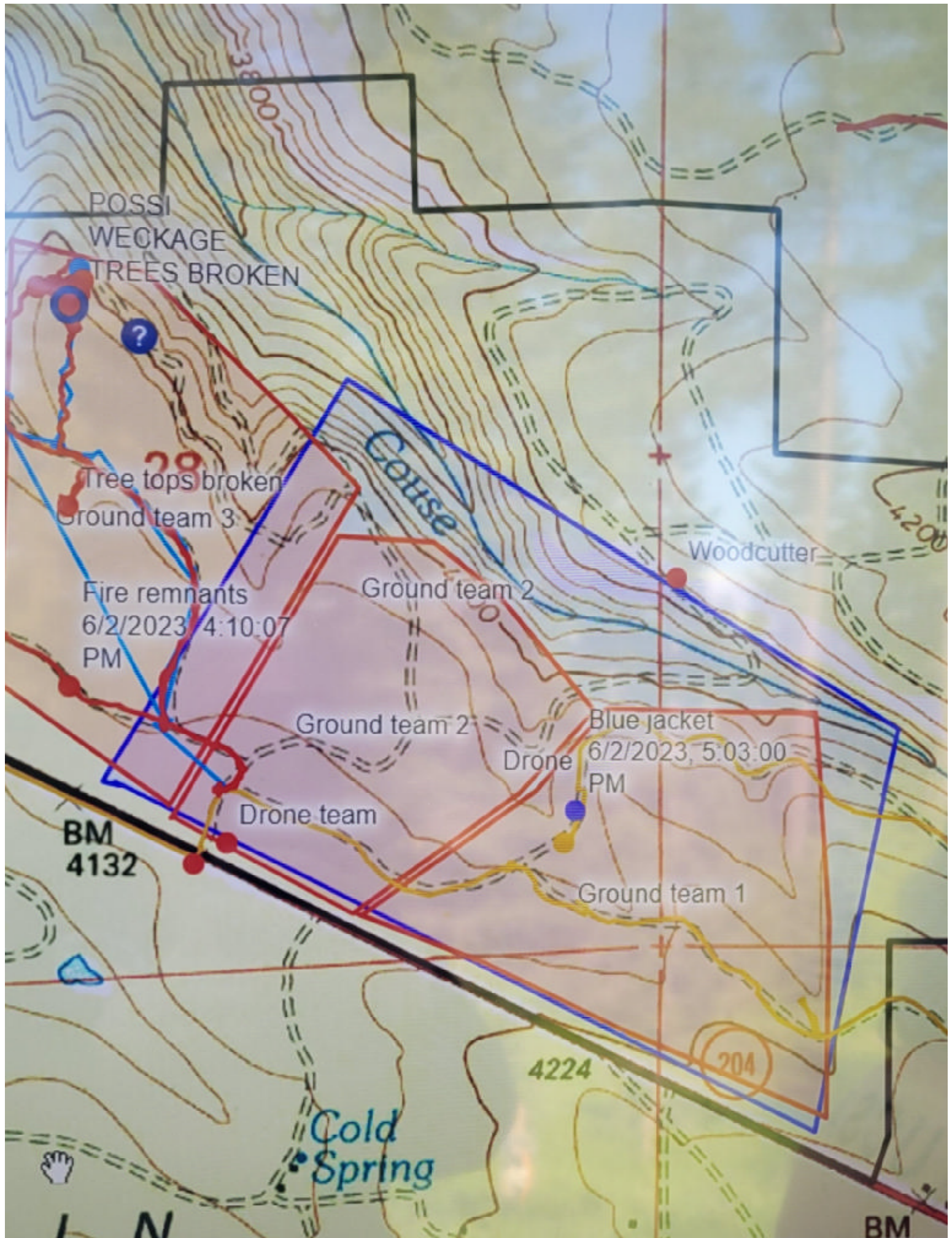






























Area 2

Area 1

S-Scene  
P-Prime  
P-Point

CONE

JOHNSON





















































