This Month in Search & Rescue / October 2026

10.1.26 Training & Meeting SEACOM

10.2.26 Thank You to Allsups/Valero for their Donation

10.3.26 EVOC Training and Technical Rescue Training

10.4.26 K(Lehner

10.6.26 NNO Sierra Vista

10.11.26 Search Mission Benson PD Assist

10.12.26 Lost 16-year-old

10.16 to 10.18 East Stronghold Team Building and Training

If You Are Lost – Stop Moving

Is Your Pack Winter Mission Ready

10.24.26 Lost Hikers Chiricahua National Park

10.25&26.26 Assist Mohave County

Allsups / Valero Donation



A HUGE Shoutout to our new Allsups/Valero Travel Center on their Grand Opening in Willcox today! And our sincere appreciation for their generous donation to our county Search and Rescue Foundation!

10.2.26 Tech Training Juniper Flats

A little behind on reporting—it's been a busy couple of training days for CCSO SAR!

Saturday, we conducted our final EVOC training in Sierra Vista and technical rope rescue training at Juniper Flats. Maintaining these skills, especially when working on vertical surfaces, is crucial to keeping our team ready for the next call.

Sunday was K9 training day, with continued work on trailing, particularly longer trails, and detection work. One of our area search K9s searched for our boss and took finding him quite literally—landing right in his lap!

Great training under perfect conditions. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen





When Hiking - Don’t Leave Home Without The Essentials!!

FALL HIKING ESSENTIALS

A Public Safety Guide from Cochise County Search & Rescue



Daytime highs upper 60s–80s°F • Overnight lows 40s–60s°F

DRESS IN LAYERS



1. WATER
(1 liter per 2 hours)



2. LAYERED CLOTHING
(for day-to-night temp swings)



3. NAVIGATION
(map & compass)



4. SUN PROTECTION
(hat, sunglasses, sunscreen)



5. FIRST-AID KIT



6. ILLUMINATION
(headlamp/flashlight & extra batteries)



7. SNACKS & FOOD
(high-energy trail food)



9. FULLY CHARGED PHONE



10. SHARE YOUR TRAIL PLAN
(leave details with someone)

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911

cochisesar.org
COCHISE COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

11.5.26 Training & Meeting SEACOM 1700
11.5.26—11.10.26 IPWDA Certifications & Training
11.10.26 Coordinator Training
11.15.26 K9 Training TBA
11.19.26 WFA SEACOM
11.21.26 General Training
11.22.26 K9 Training TBA
11.26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
11.29.26 K9 Training TBA

12.3.26 SAR Christmas Potluck
12.5.26 Maybe Tech Training
12.6.26 K9 Training TBA
12.13.26 K9 Training TBA

12.25.26 MERRY CHRISTMAS
12.31.26 HAPPY NEW YEARS EVE

December 2026

Su	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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1: New Year's Day, 18: Martin Luther King Day
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1.1.27 HAPPY NEW YEAR
1.2.27 Tech Training ??
1.3.27 K9 Training TBA
1.7.27 Training and Meeting 1700
1.10.27 K9 Training TBA
1.12.27 Coordinator Meeting
1.16.27 General Training
1.17.27 K9 Training TBA
1.24.27 K9 Training TBA
1.31.27 K9 Training TBA

10.3.26 EVOC Training





10.3.26 was the last scheduled EVOC training for our SAR team. Everyone driving or having been assigned a county vehicle had to go to this training. The next objectives hands on 4x4 driving training and vehicle recovery.

Sierra Vista National Night Out

On October 6, CCSO Search and Rescue participated in Sierra Vista's National Night Out. It was wonderful to see so many people come together and connect with those who serve our community.

Thank you to the organizers, participating agencies, and everyone who stopped by. A great evening of community spirit!









October Activities - Recap

CCSO Search and Rescue: October Activity Update

We're catching up on sharing what our volunteers have been doing! October 1–18 brought search calls, valuable training, and opportunities to connect with our community.

October 1 — Dos Cabezas Mountains
SAR was activated for a hiker who had been stung by bees. The hiking party reached their vehicle and drove to the hospital for treatment, and our response was subsequently canceled.

October 3 — Technical Rope Rescue
At Juniper Flats, members practiced anchors and rope system setup for vertical evacuations.

October 4 — K9 Training
At Lehner, our human remains detection K9s practiced large-source recognition across a 20-acre area. Trailing teams worked on individual objectives, including identifying direction of travel and following trails of varying ages and lengths.

October 7 — National Night Out
We joined other law enforcement agencies at Sierra Vista's National Night Out. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to meet the team!

October 10–15 — Continuing K9 Education
Two CCSO SAR K9 team members attended International Police Work Dog Association training, learning alongside handlers, instructors, and Master Trainers. Continuing education strengthens our teams while reinforcing the foundations of reliable K9 work.

October 11 — Benson Search
Our team assisted Benson Police Department in searching for an elderly woman living with Alzheimer's disease. Ground teams, two SAR K9 teams, Arizona DPS Air Rescue, and a BORSTAR K9 team supported the search. She was located late that afternoon after a community member contacted Benson PD to report that the woman was with her.

October 12 — Ramsey Canyon
A teenage runner became disoriented after dark and called 911. Using cell phone location information and Find-Me-Link, rescuers located him, completed a medical assessment with no concerns noted, and reunited him with his parents.

October 17–18 — East Stronghold Training
Saturday began with a timed, approximately 2.5-mile hike carrying 25-pound packs. Members then practiced search tactics, reviewed pack contents, and worked on wilderness survival skills. Dinner and time around the campfire rounded out the day. Sunday brought helicopter ingress and egress training with CCSO Hawkeye and Arizona DPS Air Rescue—important preparation for field personnel, including our K9 teams.
Thank you to our volunteers for the time and dedication they give to training and responding, and to our partner agencies and community members for their continued support.

Preparation today helps us respond when someone needs us tomorrow.

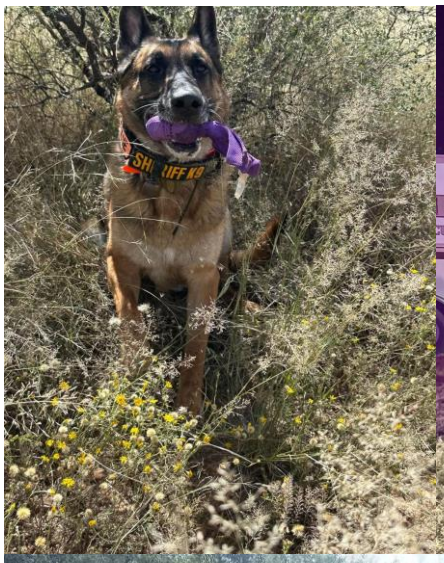








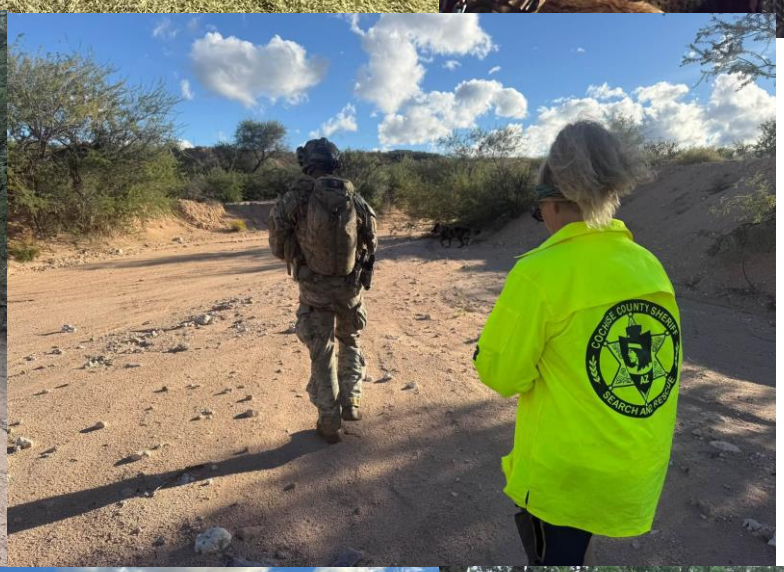
October Recap Continued







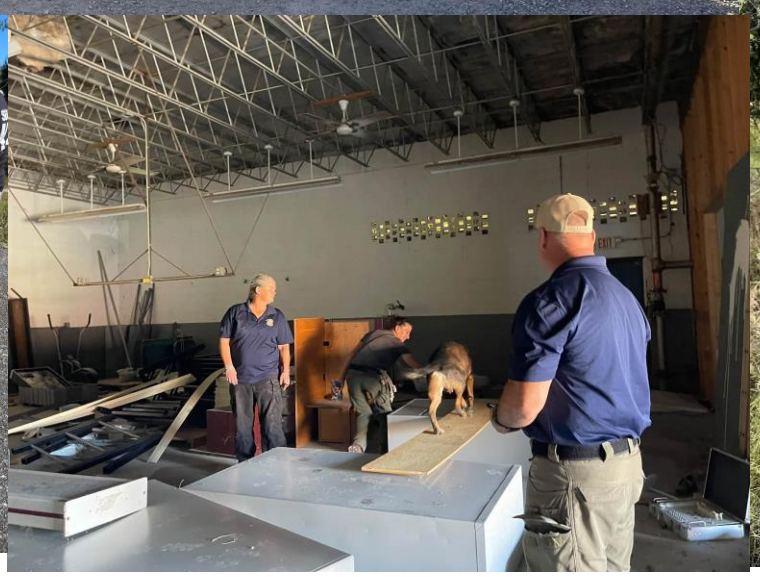














And More October Activity















During our weekend training we received a visit from one of our former and long-time team member Raul Limon and his wife Debbie. Raul was instrumental in our technical rescue rope training, as well as being Operations during all missions. After his retirement from SAR Raul and De3bbie moved north and are now back in the Tucson area. It was super to see them both.

And More October Activity












Is your SAR Pack Winter / Cold Temperature Ready?

Following our pack check on October 17, 2026, take another look at your equipment. Have you adjusted your pack for colder weather, or are you still carrying your summer gear?

Your winter SAR pack should support your assignment and help protect you if you are injured, delayed, or unexpectedly spend the night in the wilderness. Across Cochise County, conditions can vary considerably with elevation. Pack for the search location, the forecast, and the possibility of spending several hours stationary.

Clothing and footwear

Use a layering system that lets you manage exertion, wind, and precipitation. Carry moisture-wicking wool or synthetic base layers, a fleece or wool insulating layer, an insulated jacket, and a windproof, waterproof shell jacket and pants. Avoid cotton for cold-weather field clothing because it holds moisture and provides poor insulation when wet. Synthetic insulation is often a practical choice for damp conditions. Down offers excellent warmth for its weight but loses much of its insulating ability when wet; protect it carefully from moisture. Include a warm hat, neck gaiter, gloves with a spare pair, dry socks, and a spare base layer. Choose boots suited to the terrain and expected conditions. Adjust layers before you overheat and soak your clothing with sweat. Add insulation when you stop. Keep spare clothing and emergency insulation in waterproof bags where you can reach them easily.

Emergency shelter and insulation

Carry a bivy, compact emergency shelter, or a shelter system you can deploy quickly, along with a sleeping pad or other effective insulation from the ground. Select an insulation system suitable for an unexpected overnight stay in the anticipated temperatures; a thin emergency blanket alone may be inadequate.

Winter Ready - Continued

If you must stop unexpectedly, address immediate hazards and urgent medical needs, communicate your situation, and establish protection from wind, precipitation, and the ground early. Carry fire-starting supplies appropriate to conditions and restrictions, but do not depend on a fire for warmth. Hand and foot warmers are supplemental items.
Water and food

Carry enough water for the assignment plus a reserve, and a treatment method suitable for expected conditions. Account for freezing protect bottles and hydration tubes and follow manufacturer guidance for filters exposed to freezing temperatures. Carry high-energy foods that are easy to eat in the cold, plus extra food for an unexpected delay or overnight stay.

Navigation communications and personal equipment

- Confirm that your normal SAR essentials are still in your pack and ready to use:
- Map, compass, GPS or offline mapping, and the skills to use them.
- Radio and other assigned communication equipment, with spare power protected from cold and moisture.
- Headlamp with spare batteries, whistle, and signaling equipment.
- Personal first-aid supplies and required medications.
- Knife or multitool, duct tape, cordage, notebook, and writing utensils.
- Helmet and other PPE required for the assignment, plus sunglasses and sun protection.

Snow ice and shared equipment

When conditions warrant, add gaiters, snowshoes, or traction devices matched to your boots and terrain. Micro spikes and technical crampons serve different purposes; select equipment you are trained to use. Identify conditions that require additional expertise or a change in the assignment.

Coordinate patient insulation and packaging supplies, shelter components, and other shared equipment among team members. Distribute the load without leaving anyone dependent on equipment that may be unavailable if the team separates.

Additional supplies for K9 teams

Include additional water and food for your K9, a bowl, appropriate cold-weather protection, a spare leash, and K9 first-aid supplies. Carry a pad or other suitable ground insulation for rest periods. Booties and paw-care supplies protect the feet; they do not replace insulation beneath the dog. Adjust work and rest periods to your dog’s condition and the environment.

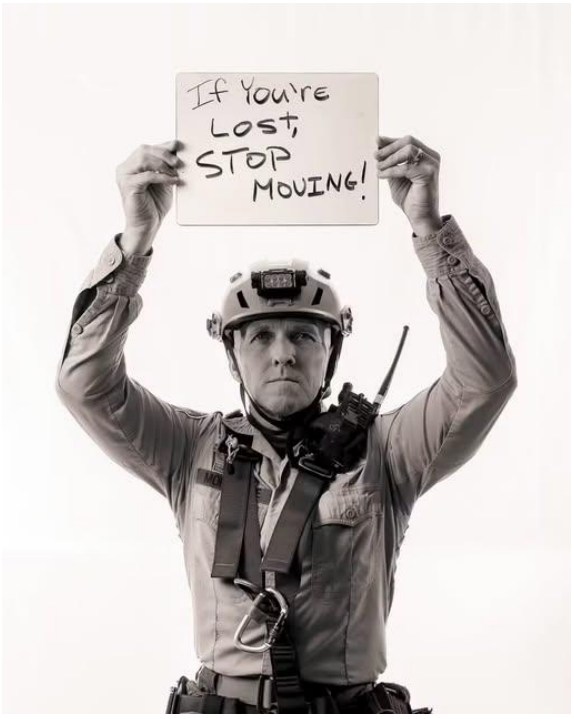
Before leaving staging

Review the forecast for the actual search elevation, including temperature, wind, precipitation, and expected overnight lows. Confirm your assignment, anticipated duration, communication plan, and available support. Check that critical equipment works and that dry layers, shelter, and insulation are accessible.

A modular packing system can make seasonal adjustments easier. Keep a core SAR kit ready, then add the appropriate cold-weather, snow, or K9 module before deployment. Check the contents rather than assuming a module is complete.

Being comfortable at the command post does not mean you will be comfortable at the search location. You can remove layers as you warm up, but you cannot put on clothing you left behind. Pack for the conditions you may face when you stop moving.

IF YOU ARE LOST – STOP MOVING



Lost? STOP and STAY PUT!

Wandering can take you farther from help and make you harder to find. Stay in a safe location, call 911 if possible, and share your location. Conserve your phone battery and use a whistle or bright clothing to signal rescuers.

Move only if your location is unsafe—and go only far enough to reach safety.

Help us find you: stay put, stay calm, stay visible

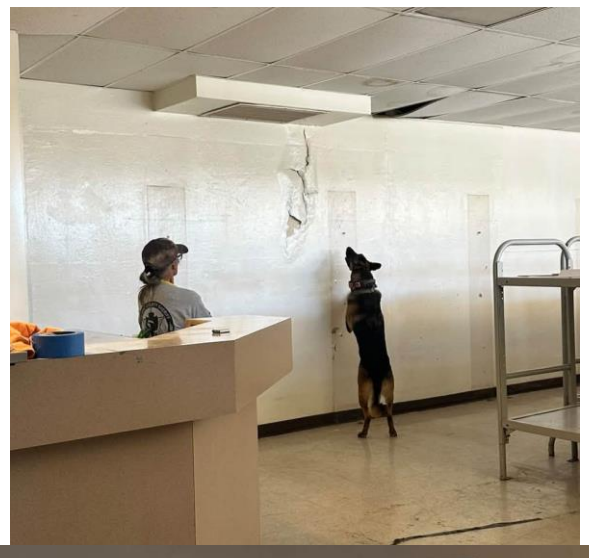
DAY OF THE DOG – TRAINING WITH SAN BERNADINO CO, CA

Another great training day in the books!

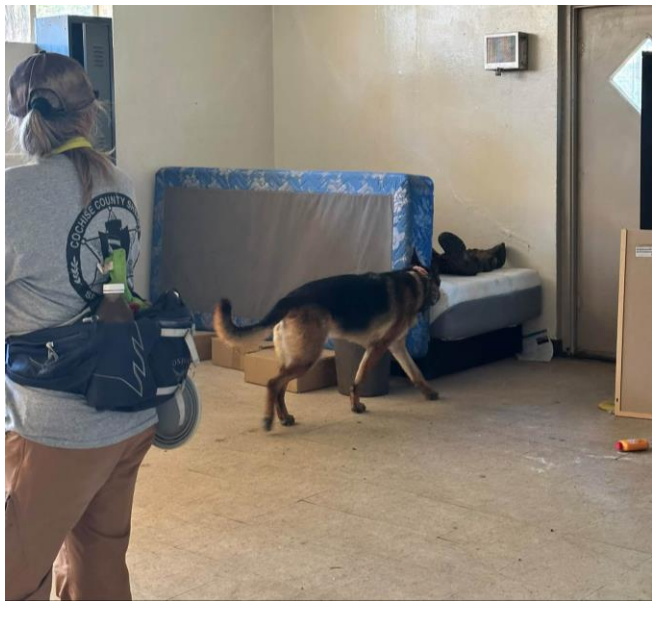
“Day of the Dog,” a scenario-based training sponsored by the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Office K9 Search Dogs, CA gave us the opportunity to work alongside extremely knowledgeable handlers and K9 teams.

K9 Whiskey and Alto worked hard—always learning and improving their skills!

Thank you to the organizers and everyone who shared their knowledge, experience, and time. Opportunities like these help us grow as handlers and strengthen our K9 teams for the missions ahead!









Red Ribbon Week

With the assistance from the CCSO SAR Drone Unit.

This week was "Red Ribbon Week" which is the annual drug, alcohol, and violence prevention awareness campaign celebrated every year from October 23rd through October 31st.







Search 10.23.26 CNP

On October 23, 2026, at approximately 2:20 p.m., Cochise County Search and Rescue was activated for two young men who became lost and disoriented while hiking in the Chiricahua Mountains.

The hikers were wearing shorts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes and had no water or equipment for the conditions. Their GPS battery was dead, and their cell phone had less than 30% battery remaining.

With temperatures dropping and concern for exposure increasing, SAR deployed a hasty search team. DPS Air Rescue Ranger 2 located the hikers, but high winds prevented a safe hoist extraction.

The ground team reached the hikers around 7:15 p.m., assessed their medical needs, and provided food, water, and warming blankets. Rescuers then escorted them to the command post, where they were reunited with their family.

Thank you to our SAR volunteers and DPS Ranger 2 for their teamwork and dedication!

A reminder before your next hike: Carry extra water, warm layers, food, a headlamp, and reliable navigation. Keep your devices charged, bring a backup power source, and let someone know your route and expected return time.

Mountain Hiking Safety Checklist

Essential gear, preparation, hydration, navigation, and emergency readiness!

The rescue story from 10.23.26 highlights how quickly an ordinary hike can become a life-threatening situation. Two hikers became lost, had no water or emergency equipment, and were inadequately dressed for changing mountain conditions.

Whether hiking in the Chiricahua Mountains or elsewhere in Arizona, preparation can make the difference between an enjoyable hike and a rescue emergency.

Use this checklist before every mountain hike.

Priority: Never hike without enough water. Dehydration can quickly become dangerous, especially in Arizona's dry climate and mountainous terrain.

Carry sufficient drinking water for the entire hike.
Bring extra water beyond your estimated needs.
Carry a hydration bladder or reusable water bottles.
Pack electrolyte replacement tablets or powder.
Bring a water filtration or purification method if your route requires it.
Drink regularly throughout the hike rather than waiting until thirsty.
Pack high-energy snacks and nutritious food.
Bring extra food in case the hike takes longer than expected.
Avoid relying on natural water sources unless properly treated.
Important: Water needs vary with temperature, elevation, exertion, and individual health. Plan conservatively and account for the return trip.

Priority: Never depend on a single electronic device.

In our rescue story, a dead GPS battery and a nearly depleted phone made an already dangerous situation worse.
Carry a fully charged smartphone.
Download offline maps before leaving home.
Carry a dedicated GPS device when appropriate.
Bring a physical topographic map of the hiking area.
Pack a reliable compass and know how to use it.
Bring a portable power bank.
Carry charging cables compatible with your devices.
Consider a satellite messenger or personal locator beacon (PLB).
Understand how to send an emergency SOS signal using your equipment.
Keep devices protected from extreme temperatures and moisture.
Know your trailhead, planned route, landmarks, and exit points.
Remember: A GPS or phone is only useful if it has power, usable maps, and a functioning way to communicate.

Essential emergency gear

First-aid kit with bandages, gauze, antiseptic, and blister care.
Emergency whistle.
Headlamp or flashlight.
Extra batteries or backup lighting.
Emergency thermal blanket.
Emergency shelter or bivy sack.
Fire-starting supplies where legal and appropriate.
Multi-tool.
Duct tape or repair supplies.
Personal medications.
Emergency contact information.
Identification.
Small emergency food supply.
Satellite communication device or PLB for remote hikes.
Emergency tip: If you become lost, stop, stay calm, and avoid wandering farther in an attempt to find your way. Contact emergency services if possible, communicate your location, and conserve your energy and warmth.

Hiking Continued

Pre-hike planning and preparation

Before leaving home:

Research the trail distance and difficulty.
Check elevation gain and expected hiking time.
Check current weather and forecast.
Research temperature changes at higher elevations.
Check for storms, high winds, and flash-flood risks.
Check trail closures and local restrictions.
Confirm that everyone in your group is physically prepared.
Establish a realistic turnaround time.
Start early enough to finish before dark.
Identify alternate routes and emergency exit points.
Make sure everyone knows the planned route.
Avoid hiking alone in remote or unfamiliar areas when possible.

Tell someone your hiking plans

Give a trusted person your destination.
Share your planned trail and route.
Provide your expected departure and return times.
Give them the names of everyone hiking with you.
Establish a specific time for checking in.
Provide instructions for when and whom to contact if you fail to return.
Notify that person when you safely finish the hike.
Never assume someone will automatically know you are missing.

What to do if you become lost or stranded

Follow these emergency steps:

STOP: Stop moving when you realize you are lost.
STAY CALM: Avoid panic and conserve energy.
ASSESS: Check injuries, available water, clothing, and supplies.
LOCATE: Check your GPS, map, and compass if available.
COMMUNICATE: Call 911 when possible. Provide your location and situation.
CONSERVE: Preserve phone battery and other essential resources.
SHELTER: Protect yourself from wind, cold, heat, and rain.
SIGNAL: Use a whistle, flashlight, or other signaling device.
STAY PUT: Unless your location presents an immediate danger or rescuers direct you otherwise, remain in a safe, visible location.

If rescue personnel are approaching, make yourself visible and follow their instructions.

Final safety reminders. Five rules that can save your life

1. Never underestimate how much water you need.
2. Never rely entirely on your phone for navigation.
3. Never hike beyond your physical abilities or available daylight.
4. Never leave without emergency supplies and appropriate clothing.
5. Never hesitate to turn around when conditions become unsafe.