

About Elkhorn Search & Rescue

Jurisdiction: 1,659 square miles across Jefferson County, Montana, including 430 miles of motorized trails.

Operations: 100% volunteer roster handling response calls across the northern half of Jefferson County, Montana.

Operational Focus: Backcountry search and rescue, complex off-road trail navigation, and off-road vehicle accident response.

The Challenge

Navigating vast and complex backcountry terrain efficiently is critical for search and rescue operations. Relying entirely on traditional GPS units or incomplete mapping systems can sometimes leave volunteers looking for more context when navigating unfamiliar or constantly evolving landscapes.

The Solution

Elkhorn SAR utilizes onX to provide volunteers with a reliable and intuitive mapping solution. Because many volunteers already use the app recreationally, they can easily leverage it in the field to navigate confidently without any additional training.



Enhancing SAR Operations in Jefferson County, Montana

Elkhorn Search & Rescue operates across a massive and diverse landscape in Jefferson County, Montana. As a 100% volunteer-driven organization, ensuring that responders can navigate safely and effectively is paramount to their mission of finding missing persons and responding to backcountry accidents.

To support their critical daily operations, the team has found immense value in utilizing the onX mapping system. By providing accessible, up-to-date terrain and trail information, onX serves as a vital resource in the field.

During one recent mission, a responder arrived at a complex "Y" intersection in the road. Lacking the most current background trail map on their traditional GPS unit, the responder couldn't determine which way to turn to reach the subject. By simply pulling up onX on his phone, he was instantly able to identify the current, correct route and proceed with the rescue.

Whether responders are verifying a complex route, land ownership, or checking terrain boundaries, the app adds a crucial layer of situational awareness. Ultimately, onX has become an important, highly valued tool in Elkhorn SAR's toolkit, helping their dedicated team members execute successful missions and, most importantly, save lives.

Contact Us:

onxforbusiness@onxmaps.com