



Profile of a recent Global Rescue mission in Africa

HR Subscriber Evacuated From Ethiopia By Global Rescue

April 13, 2009

When you think about medical evacuation on a hunting trip, you may think you'll only need it if you're injured by dangerous game or fall and break a limb or get bitten by something venomous. Well, how about pulmonary edema caused by high altitude? That's what happened to longtime subscriber John Searles last week while hunting mountain nyala in Ethiopia.

Searles is an experienced sheep hunter who has hunted at high altitudes throughout his hunting career. Altitude-related complications were the last problem he expected, but he found himself fighting for his life after ascending to 10,500 feet. He is home now and in good condition considering he came down a mountain unable to speak and choking on the fluid that filled his lungs. His wife, Sandy, says they called Global Rescue on their PH's satellite phone on the way to a hospital in Addis Ababa, a seven-hour drive from their hunting camp.

She says Global Rescue worked through the night to arrange for a doctor and nurse from Nairobi to be flown by jet into Addis Ababa where they stabilized Searles and airlifted him to Nairobi. Once there, they determined the pulmonary edema had led to bleeding in Searles' brain, knocking out his ability to speak.

Sandy Searles says Global Rescue liaised with Searles' personal physician, specialists at John Hopkins Hospital who work with Global Rescue and a first-class neurosurgeon in Nairobi to efficiently treat the condition. Searles improved enough that he was able to travel back home on a commercial flight. Just in case, Global Rescue provided a paramedic to accompany them.

When I spoke with Sandy Searles early today, she said her husband had made an 85 percent recovery and is expected to fully recover. "I don't know what we would have done without Global Rescue," she told me.

Here at The Hunting Report, I am thankful that Searles will be OK and that he took my advice and signed up with Global Rescue before going on his trip. He has promised me a full report on his experience and insights for fellow subscribers as soon as he is able to write me a note. I hope to share it with you in the next issue of The Hunting Report. If you are preparing to hunt somewhere remote this season, please consider a Global Rescue membership. - Barbara Crown, Editor.