

Roundtable Notes: After the Crash

- If the crash happened earlier in the day or there was a serious injury, then hiking a short distance for a better cell signal might be worth the risk. (Paul)
- With 1 hour of light, you can go uphill for 30 minutes to search for cell service before returning to the crash site. (Catherine)
- Be dressed to “step out of the airplane” for any point along your route. (Kevin)
- Don’t cross a ridge until you can see terrain clearly to the other side. (Wally and Paul)
- Consider the wind as you cross the ridge as there may be a lot of sink if you’re climbing into the lee side of the ridge. (Wally)
- Climb over the lower terrain. Once you commit to crossing, cross at the sharpest angle you can to minimize time over the ridge itself. (Paul)
- A survival kit should be loaded last for quick access. Periodically check expiration dates on any applicable items. (John)
- Only about 5 percent of accidents are unsurvivable. (Paul)
- Large trash bags make quick waterproof and heat-retaining clothing. (Wally)

“If nothing else, this scenario is going to change the way I load the aircraft and maintain my survival kit.” — John

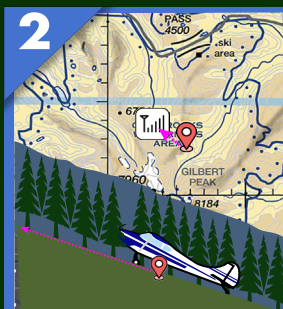
- Too many people don’t think about survival gear until they’re in a situation where they need it. (Paul)
- Don’t count on being seen in open terrain. A downed airplane can be almost invisible in a corn field or even scrub forest. (Elaine)
- This scenario has made it clear we should make a habit of telling a trusted person where we’re going and when we’ll be back, even on local flights. (Elaine and Catherine)
- Put your origin and destination on a shared calendar so family members know your plan in case you’re ever overdue. (Kevin)
- If you use a VFR flight plan, update your position with Flight Service to narrow the search area. (Wally)
- Manually activate your ELT before the crash if you can. (Kevin)
- After the crash, check to see if the ELT is still connected to its antenna. If it is, there’s a good chance it’s transmitting. (Paul)

CHOICES BY EXPERT

Paul.....	1
Elaine	1/2
Wally.....	1
Kevin.....	1
Catherine.....	2/1
John	1



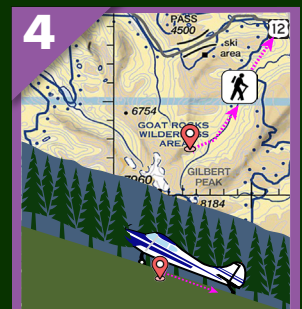
Stay with your friends and wait, even if you must crawl into the wrecked airplane to stay dry.



Climb to a higher elevation to get a cell signal with line-of-sight toward the ski area or Rimrock Lake.



Bushwhack about 4 miles, following the river downstream in the direction you were going to reach Route 12. Flag down a motorist.



Bushwhack about 2 miles down the valley you just flew over to the trailhead. Follow the road about 7 miles from the trailhead back to Route 12, and then flag down a motorist.