

## AirFlare For Snow Immersion Incidents

Snow immersion tragedies are an unfortunate reality in skiing and boarding. The western US saw 8 tree-well suffocations during the 2018/19 season alone.

Tree-Well / Snow Immersion Suffocation tests show approximately 90% of subjects are not able to self-rescue, meaning if a partner or other skier is not immediately able to help, suffocation may occur. In the event of an immersion, therefore, timely discovery is paramount.

While AirFlare *is not* a substitute for skiers and ski partners to carry avalanche beacons when they venture out into deep snow, AirFlare does provide tools which may be helpful when a skier suspects a partner may be involved in a snow immersion incident.



### 1. Location Return:

If a skier becomes separated from their partner, and believe it's possible their partner may have become submerged, they should call ski patrol immediately. If the subject has AirFlare downloaded to their phone, a quick search of the AirFlare Registry by Patrol Dispatch can return the subject's exact GPS coordinates to dispatch, as well as to patrollers out in the field, within 30 seconds.

### 2. Peer-to-Peer (Find my Buddy)

Very often, the person most able to provide assistance to a submerged skier is their partner. If both skier and partner have AirFlare on their phones, and have connected with each other through AirFlare's Peer-to-Peer location sharing feature, with the push of a button a skier can query the location of their partner's phone (within cell service), view the location on the map, and get assistance (direction and distance) to navigate to their partner's location.



### 3. Beacon Detection

AirFlare Detectors are deployed by Mountain Patrol teams in instances where Location Return does not report back a location. For example, the phone may be out of cell service, in cell service but unable to acquire a GPS fix, or in airplane mode.

Within minutes, AirFlare Detectors can be configured to search specifically for a lost subject's phone, and are deployed on search personnel (e.g. in a jacket pocket) or up in the air via drone. AirFlare Detectors act as a second set of eyes, that can see through trees and other terrain barriers that patrollers cannot. When the Detector comes within range of the lost subject's phone (typically within a half mile), it alerts the patroller the lost subject is in the vicinity, and pulls the subject's GPS coordinates off their phone and returns them to the patroller. Those coordinates can then be navigated to by the patroller via their phone or handheld GPS device.

