

PEOPLE
PLACES

DOCUMENTARY SERIES
30 MIN.



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Air Zermatt – Helicopter Search and Rescue

The world famous Matterhorn is their workplace. They rescue people in distress in the dramatic mountain landscape; they also transport food to remote dwellings and building supplies to high-altitude construction sites. It's a demanding and sometimes nerve-racking all-year-round job.

01 Family Matters

In Part One, pilot Markus Koch takes off on an early morning search and rescue flight. The end of July is Air Zermatt's busiest time. The good weather attracts countless visitors. Pilot Robi Andenmatten sets off on a mission to rescue an exhausted climber. In the evening, while eating spaghetti in the hangar, they are in for a surprise.

02 Rescued

In Part Two, the rescue teams take off on a bad-weather mission. Wind and snow have taken many mountaineers by surprise. In their emergency bivouacs they are now waiting for the rescue teams. The night before, three women had sent distress signals from the Obergabelhorn. There's no time to lose. At the base, Carmen Lauber has an argument with climbers from eastern Europe who cannot afford the rescue charges. Nevertheless, the three Romanians are determined to climb the Matterhorn.

03 Life and Death

In Part Three, rescue specialist Kurt Lauber undertakes a crevasse rescue at the Weissmies. A roped party of five has fallen into a crevasse, triggering a major Air Zermatt emergency response. The hot summer has caused many crevasses to open up suddenly. Team leader Carlo has the day off, and the pilot Gerold cannot get the accident at the Weissmies glacier out of his mind. He is thinking about life and death.

04 Looking for Traces

In Part Four, Bruno Jelk leads his team in search of a missing Japanese woman who fell into a crevasse. He's responding to a request by her relatives. The snowboarder has been missing for the past year. It is a dangerous operation in treacherous ice. A German couple, the Kaspers, lost their son when he fell to his death two years ago. They have once again returned to Zermatt to come to terms with his death. The pilot Robi helps them.

05 Bad Weather Conditions

In Part Five, Zermatt's search and rescue teams are grounded in the morning due to bad weather conditions. The previous day, Bruno Jelk and his team found a backpack and a snowboard while searching for a Japanese snowboarder. Are they hers? The pilot Robi flies a rescue mission despite fog and wind. A young couple is stranded on a rock face. Markus gets all excited when the huge, brand-new Italian helicopter lands at the base.

06 A Fall on the Matterhorn

In Part Six, Markus the pilot and Bruno Jelk recover the body of a young Polish woman at the foot of the Matterhorn. Kurt Lauber has the difficult task of evacuating her fellow climbers as well as informing them of the death of their friend. How are the rescuers themselves dealing with these experiences? The pilot Gerold spends a day off with his wife Sabine in their mountain hut. They discuss the dangers and psychological stress of his work as a search and rescue helicopter pilot.

07 Farewell

In Part Seven, the pilot Markus airlifts 100-meter long pipes between trees and power lines and positions them in a trench. This requires incredible precision. The Kaspers decided to fly with the pilot Robi and Bruno Jelk to the location where their son fell to his death. Will this finally give them closure? There has been a tragic accident on the Alex glacier. Gerold has to evacuate a group of twenty people.