

# To rescue against time

A snowmobile accident i northern Sweden,2022

The stories is made from interviews with the rescuers and “Joe”.

*The aim in this presentation is the rescuing and the injured person*

*Johnny Olofsson Marie Nordgren*





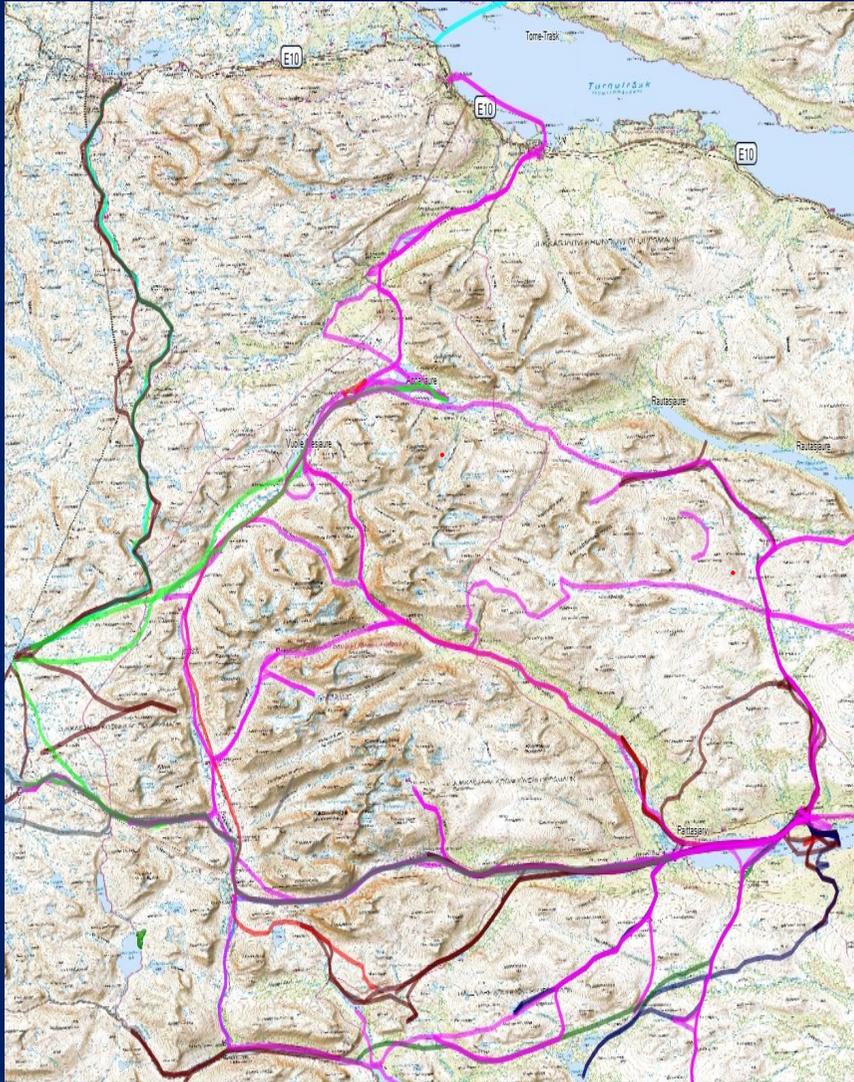


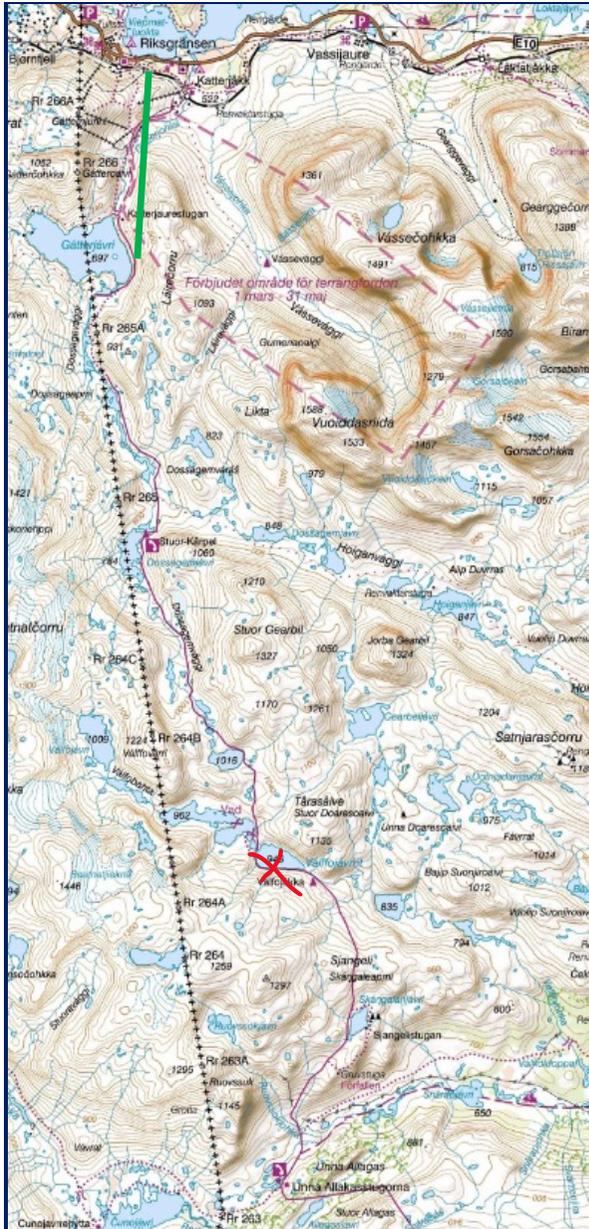
# Mountain Rescue in Sweden

- Mountain range is apprx. 850km long
- 1/3 above the Arctic circle.
- 2 alpine groups
- 2 cave groups
- Terrestrial groups along the mountain range









## March 26, 2022.

- The alarm came in 3.19 pm.
- Young man, age 23, missing.
- Went snowmobiling, going south in the mountains, should have been back at lunch time.
- He was supposed to do a short tour.
- Good weather when starting
- Clothing ...



## “Joe” the snow mobile driver

“As long as I follow the trail, I find my way back”



Weather  
forecast:  
Snowstorm,  
- 10-15°C





## "Joe" the snowmobile driver



He flew 2 meters  
over the handlebar.

Pain in his left  
femur and hip,  
conscious all time.

" Darn – how  
stupid!"





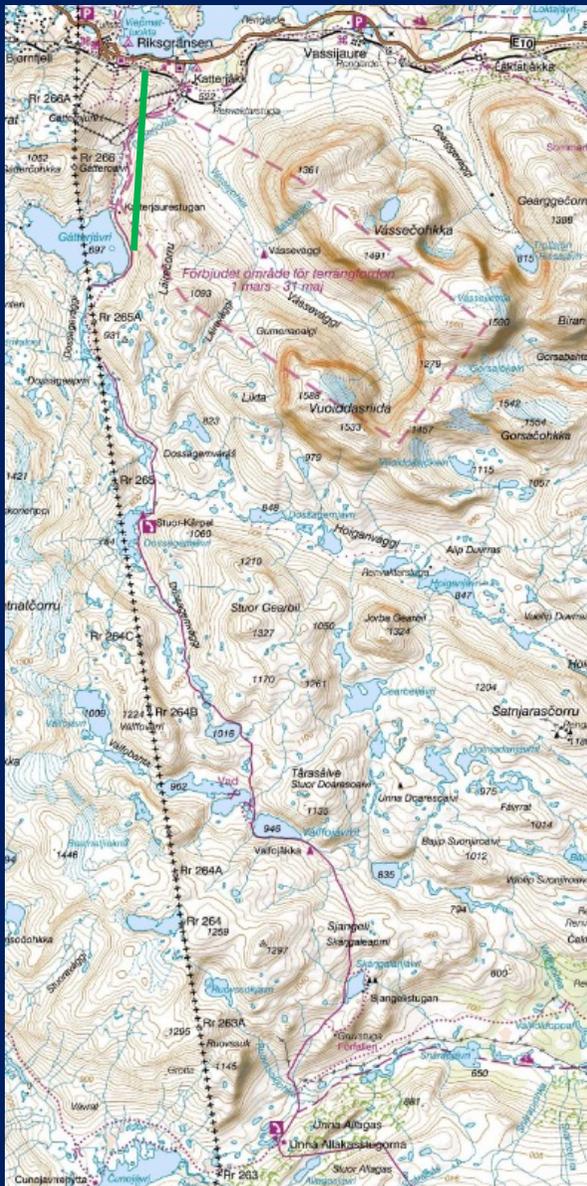
He tried to  
start the  
snowmobile.

No cell phone  
coverage.



## The rescuing

- Rapid Reach was sent out to the mountain rescue units in the area.
- Mountain rescue together with Ski Patrol searched the area, no success.
- No weather for helicopters.
- The gut feeling is not good in the team. Avalanche? Canyon?



The weather was getting worse!

Night and darkness was coming.





# The rescuing

At 6.00 pm more Mountain Rescuers were called in, and even more at 7.30 pm.

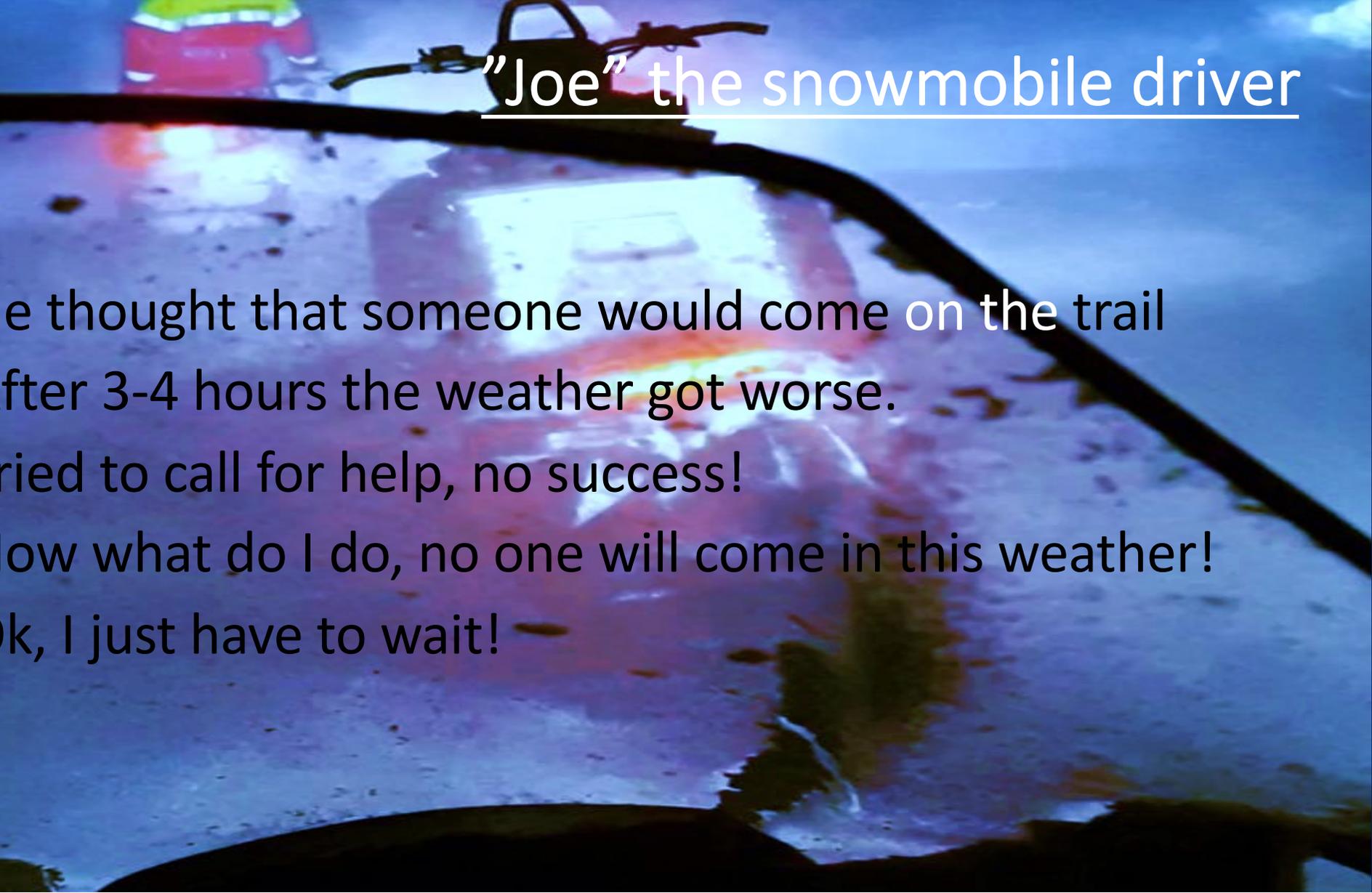
The weather is now really bad and the road up to the villages is closed!

Discussion with the police to withdraw the search until the morning

The rescuers felt comfortable to keep on searching during the night, despite the weather







## "Joe" the snowmobile driver

- He thought that someone would come on the trail
- After 3-4 hours the weather got worse.
- Tried to call for help, no success!
- Now what do I do, no one will come in this weather!
- Ok, I just have to wait!

# The rescue team

- Drove in the snowstorm all night.
- There were 6 of us searching in 2 groups, the rest were resting, ready to take over in the morning.
- At 4. 30 am we rested at a small cabin for approx 45 minutes.





## The rescuing



At 5.05 am he was found, 135 meters from the shelter.

**15,5 hours after the accident!**

## The rescuing

- He is sitting on his snowmobile; he is alert and answers to questions.
- He has a lot of pain in his left upper leg
- He is cold!
- There is a gap between his pants and jacket on the back side. Feels frozen!
- He has a good perception of what has happened.

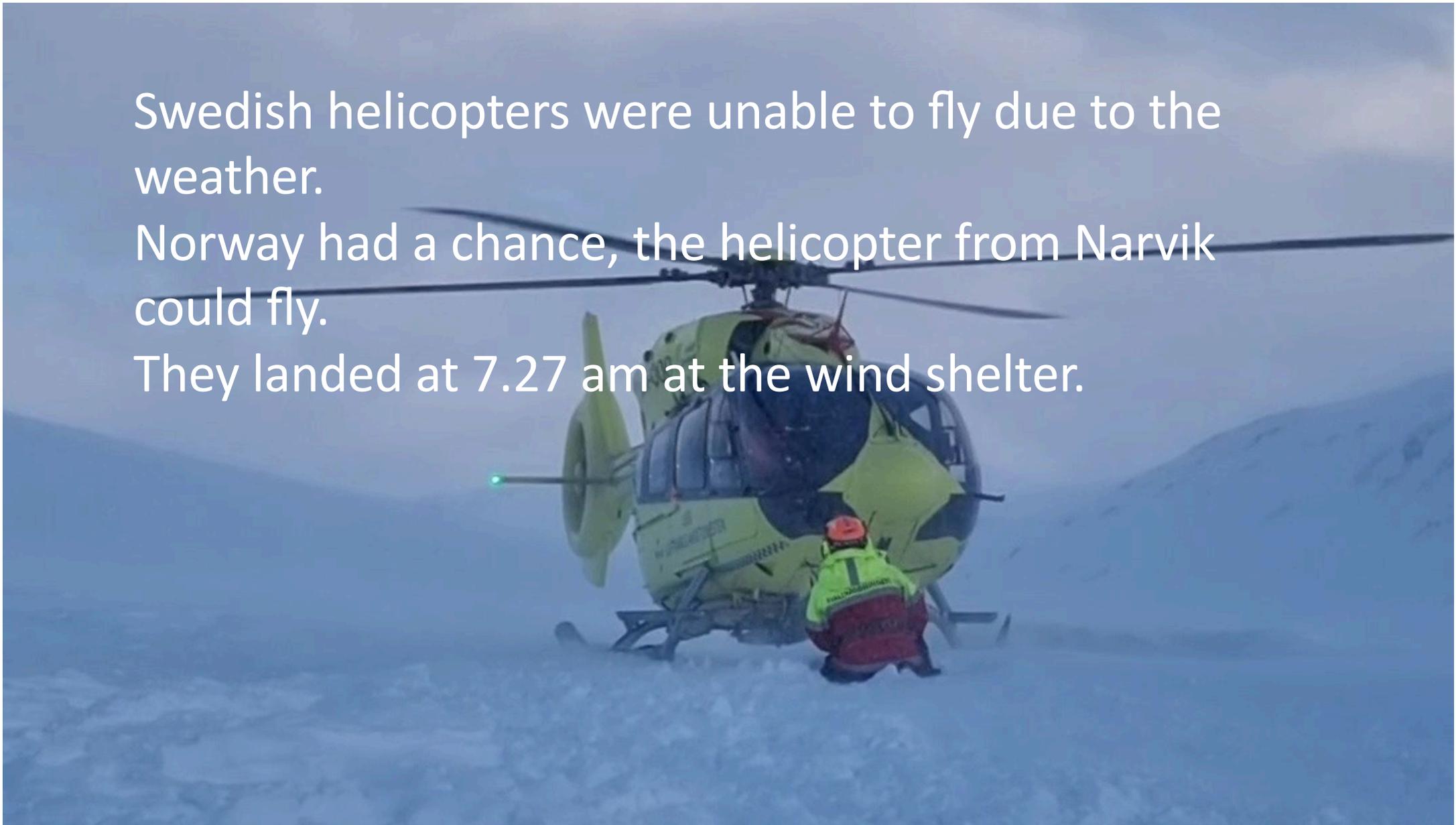
## The rescuing

- In some way we got him into the wind shelter where we already had a fire going.
- He was in pain. We can't give any medication, we must relay on nonpharmacological pain relief.
- He got more tired, and a slurred speech.
- Rescue collapse? We were prepared!
- He got warm/sweet drinks, He hadn't eat or drink since 1.00 pm.

Swedish helicopters were unable to fly due to the weather.

Norway had a chance, the helicopter from Narvik could fly.

They landed at 7.27 am at the wind shelter.



## “Joe” the snowmobile driver

### What were the injuries?

- His left hip was dislocated.
- He had a fracture in the pelvis (acetabulum).
- Pneumo mediastinum.
- Cold!
- Frostbite!
- **35.5° C** (IR) when arriving in Narvik, Norway



## Lessons learned for the team

- Experience and trust!
- Always have Inreach in transmit mode so commander in charge can see positions and don't trust satellite phone.
- And trust your gut feeling, so you can make that forbidden fire!



## How could he survive 15.5 hours in a snowstorm?

- He is a big guy!
- He is injured, but not bleeding!
- He takes shelter in his jacket to breath and keep warm.
- Sitting ON the snowmobile.
- He uses his cellphone - put it on alarm
- He tries to start the snowmobile.
- He never lose hope! Die? – No!
- He is used to the weather conditions - never get afraid!  
Culture!





# Psychological First Aid already on scene by himself

SAFETY - protect from more stress. Mitigate the scene to reduce chaos.

CALM - utilize resources..stay warm, experience!

EMPOWERMENT/ENGAGEMENT - strength, what can I do here and now.

CONNECTION - with himself, trying to call loved ones.

HOPE - I got this! Some one will come. Don't lose hope. Future oriented.



?



*Thanks for Listening!*

