

Beating the odds is always a great feeling. One ice-cold October day in 2006, Uchikoshi had been with a group on a mountain in western Japan. Ashcraft was badly injured and disoriented. Determined to survive, Ashcraft created a sail from scraps of material and charted a path to Hawaii, which was 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) away. For days, Le Marque struggled through hunger, freezing temperatures, and 12-foot (4-meter) deep snow. After being fitted with artificial limbs, he vowed to go snowboarding again. At the age of 23, while she was sailing the South Pacific, Ashcraft was caught in a violent hurricane. Having lost 40 pounds (18 kilograms) during her ordeal, Ashcraft was thin and haggard when she arrived. One day in February 2004, Le Marque set out for a day of snowboarding in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. Knowing that eating snow lowers body temperature, Le Marque ate only tree bark and pine seeds. Tami Oldham Ashcraft knows this feeling. Doctors assumed he was dead.