



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Chief*

DATE: *Wednesday, January 02, 2013*
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ELDERLY HIKER RESCUED AFTER FALL

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 1, 2013 8:01 P.M.
Location: Pacific Crest Trail, south of Hesperia, CA
Incident: Technical Rescue of Fall Victim

Shortly after 8:00 P.M on New Year's Day, the San Bernardino County Fire Department responded to the report of an injured hiker on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) west of Silverwood Lake. The initial call to 911 came from two hikers who stated an elderly male had fallen an unknown distance off the trail.

Based on GPS plotting of the cellphone call, units responded to the Rio Baranca Valle Campground where the PCT nears Cleghorn Road. A deputy from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department had already arrived and begun hiking the PCT in an attempt to locate the victim. Fire personnel from County Fire and Crest Forest Fire Protection District outfitted with rescue equipment followed shortly thereafter.

The victim, a 70-year-old male, was located approximately two miles up the PCT between Cleghorn Road and forest service road 2N47. He had fallen around 60 feet through heavy brush and sustained minor injuries. The lack of light and general disorientation prevented the victim from ascending back up to the trail. Temperatures at the time of the call were in the upper 20's.

A patrol helicopter with hoist capability from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to the scene. Under night vision goggles, the flight crew successfully hoisted and transported the victim to an awaiting ambulance. The victim was taken to an area hospital for evaluation of his injuries.

San Bernardino County Fire would like to remind the public of few safety tips when venturing into the wilderness: Never hike alone. Avoid hiking in unfamiliar territory at night. Tell others of your intended route with expected return time. Wear clothing appropriate for environmental conditions. Carry an adequate water supply.

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