



# NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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## **HIKERS RESCUED AFTER AVALANCHE NEAR MOUNT BALDY**

**Incident:** Rescue (BDC: 16-9702)  
**Date / Time:** Thursday January 26, 2017 12:13pm  
**Location:** Baldy Bowl, Mount Baldy, CA

**Mt. Baldy, CA-** At 12:13 this afternoon, San Bernardino County Fire responded to a report of a fall victim in the Baldy Bowl southeast of the peak of Mount Baldy. 911 callers stated that a party of three hikers in the bowl were the victims of an avalanche. Further information described the hikers being on unstable snow overlaying a sheet of ice.

Units from San Bernardino County Fire and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Mount Baldy Volunteer Fire Dept, the Angeles National Forest and American Medical Response responded to the command post established at Cow Canyon Saddle.

Due to the remote area and the reported unstable terrain, aviation assets from San Bernardino County Sheriff were requested to assist in locating the victims. Sheriff's 40-KING-2 was able to quickly pinpoint the parties in the lower section of the bowl. Based on the circumstances, Air Rescue 7 was continued into the scene to insert rescue personnel and ultimately perform a series of hoist extractions.

Two hikers were assessed, packaged, and extricated by County Fire flight medics and evacuated to the landing zone located at the command post. Both were ultimately transported by ground personnel to a local hospital for treatment of their injuries. The third hiker in the group declined treatment and was able to hike out without assistance.

Air Rescue 7 is a multi-mission Bell 212 staffed with four personnel: two sheriff deputies and two fire personnel. Equipped with advanced life support, technical rescue, extrication and fire suppression equipment, it plays a key role in the successful mitigation of a host of non-traditional public safety responses that occur throughout San Bernardino County.

San Bernardino County Fire reminds outdoor enthusiasts that conditions can rapidly change in the backcountry. Avalanche control measures are not employed in these areas. Please be properly equipped, know how to use your gear, and enjoy your adventures responsibly.

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