



NEWS



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Stranded off-roaders rescued in San Bernardino Mountains

Lisa Stevens, Dover Daily News

Posted: March 27, 2019



A group of 15 off-roaders and their dogs were rescued early Sunday from the Crab Flats area north of Green Valley Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains after being stranded in sub-freezing temperatures, authorities said.

No injuries were reported from the incident, which began late Saturday night when members of the group, which included three children, ed authorities by cell phone to report they were stuck.

The group was in five four-wheel drive vehicles, which were outmatched by the conditions on the Forest Service roads they were using, including deep snow and sections washed out by recent rains, **San Bernardino County Fire** Department Capt. Jeremy Kern said by phone.

He said temperature in the area was 24 degrees when the group called about 10 p.m. Saturday, and got colder as the operation continued for several hours. All of the people were sheltered in place while awaiting rescue, and had fuel, Kern said.

The department sent three snowcats to reach the group, but only one of the tracked vehicles was able to complete the route, Kern said. It ferried them out of the area in two groups — nine people and two dogs and six people and two larger dogs.

The group had started out from Fawnskin, north of Big Bear Lake and were about 13 road miles west of there when they called for help, Kern said

Kern said one of the snowcats which started out from Fawskin had to backtrack after it encountered a large tree across a roadway.

Another snowcat out of Green Valley did not have the clearance for a washed-out road, prompting the call for a higher-clearance snowcat out of Lake Arrowhead.

The crew from Green Valley worked to reinforce the road for the Lake Arrowhead vehicle, which was the one that reached the group, Kern said.

The entire operation took about eight hours, Kern said. The 15 rescued people were eventually shuttled to Running Springs by San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies to make their own arrangements, Kern said. The off-road vehicles remained in Crab Flats.

“We usually face a couple of these a year,” Kern said. “We advise people to pay attention to road closures, and bring proper equipment” to the mountains, including tire chains, warm clothing and extra food, he said.

<https://doverdailynews.com/stranded-off-roaders-rescued-in-san-bernardino-mountains/34701/>

REACH opens air medical transport base at SCLA

Rene Ray De La Cruz, Daily Press

Posted: March 26, 2019, 5:53 pm



REACH Air Medical Services employees, at the company's newest emergency air medical transport base at the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville. [Photo courtesy of REACH]

VICTORVILLE — REACH Air Medical Services recently announced the opening of its newest emergency air medical transport base in the High Desert.

Located at the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, the new base will work closely with American Medical Response of San Bernardino County and will operate in partnership with the County Fire.

The new air ambulance base, the company's second at SCLA, will provide emergency transport services 24-hours a day, seven days a week, with the central location expected to result in faster response times for emergency and trauma patients in the county and the surrounding regions, the company said.

“We are incredibly pleased to open this base and to be serving the residents of our community,” said Sean Russell, president of REACH. “REACH is proud to now be working alongside AMR of San Bernardino County and to continue working closely with the **San Bernardino County Fire Department**, as well as increasing our overall support to local EMS and healthcare systems.”

The Victorville base is staffed by a flight crew that includes trained and experienced pilots, clinicians, and aircraft maintenance technicians. The Airbus H-135 helicopter that operates from the base is medically-configured with the latest avionics and safety features, the company said.

The aircraft is also one of the only instrument flight-rule capable helicopters in the region, which means it can provide service during inclement weather when other aircraft may be grounded.

Headquartered in Sacramento, REACH operates throughout Southern California with additional air medical bases located in Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties. The proximity of these bases allows for additional air transport coverage in the community when an asset is already in service on another call.

REACH is a participating provider in the AirMedCare Network, the nation's largest air medical transport membership program. When transported by REACH, AMCN members incur no out of pocket expenses for a medically necessary flight. Membership is \$85 a year for an entire household or \$65 a year for seniors. In addition to covering members when flown by REACH, membership extends to all AMCN's providers in 320 locations across 38 states.

REACH also provides service to communities throughout California, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Texas, Colorado, and Hawaii. REACH employs hundreds of trained nurses, paramedics, pilots and aircraft maintenance technicians to provide service to patients using their fleet of medically equipped helicopters, airplanes, and ground ambulances.

REACH is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems, which is the gold standard for patient care and safety in the medical transport industry. For more information, visit www.REACHAir.com

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190326/reach-opens-air-medical-transport-base-at-scla>

Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association Concerned with Closing of Fire Station 283

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

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BIG BEAR CITY, Calif. – The Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association shared their concern about the upcoming closure of Fire Station 283. The Board of Directors voted to close the station to prevent any money needing to be taken from reserve funds. Station 283 currently serves communities including, Big Bear City, Erwin Lake, Lake Williams and Baldwin Lake.

The Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association does not agree with the reduction in services and believes that the closure will add risk to Big Bear Valley due to increased response time. According to the Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association, five recent structure fires have had 283 as the first to respond. “The Big Bear Fire Department experienced Level Zero, meaning there are no available apparatus to respond to emergencies, 112 times,” a Big Bear Firefighters Association representative said. “This year we have already experienced level zero 60 times! The closure of this station will result in far more level zero situations. Everyday, The Big Bear Fire Department has a minimum of 13 fire suppression personnel on duty and the closing of this station would bring the minimum on duty personnel down to 11.”

The lack of enough trained responders this poses a risk to residents and firefighters. Members of the community are asked to attend the Fire Authority Board Budget Workshop at Station 281 on April 17, at 4:30 p.m. “We need your help preventing this from happening,” a Big Bear Firefighters Association representative said. “All residents are encouraged to attend the Budget Workshop meeting and voice your concerns over this matter! We are proud to serve this great community and this organization needs to get to a point where we can provide exceptional service to everyone.”

<https://247headline.com/big-bear-professional-firefighters-association-concerned-with-closing-of-fire-station-283/>