



NEWS



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- Orange County hiker hoist-rescued in local mountains

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By Rene Ray De La Cruz, VICTORVILLE DAILY PRESS

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A San Bernardino County Sheriff's aviation team on Saturday hoist-rescued an injured hiker near Mt Baldy. Photos Courtesy of The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

A sheriff's aviation team hoist-rescued an injured 68-year-old man hiking in the San Gabriel Mountains south of Wrightwood. On Saturday afternoon, **San Bernardino County Fire** personnel requested SBC Sheriff's Aviation to find an injured hiker in the Mt. Baldy area. Sheriff's helicopter 40-King-2 responded to the area to find Orange County resident Thomas Copenhaver, who was injured from a fall and could no longer hike, authorities said.

The 40-King-2 crew arrived and found Copenhaver on a trail below San Antonio Falls and near the Mt. Baldy Resort. The 40-King-2 crew relayed to Sheriff's helicopter Air Rescue 306 that a hoist would be necessary to get Copenhaver to fire department personnel safely. The AR306 team arrived on the scene and was guided to Copenhaver's location by 40-King-2. AR306 hovered above Copenhaver while a Medic was hoisted down to him. Once the medic assessed Copenhaver's injuries, he requested additional equipment from AR306, which lowered a rescue basket down to the medic.

Copenhaver was secured into the basket and hoisted back into the helicopter, followed by the medic. AR306 transported Copenhaver to the San Antonio Dam, where he was treated by SBC Fire personnel for his injuries, sheriff's officials said. The 40-King-2 crew included Pilot Deputy Paul Kowalski and Tactical Flight Officer Corporal Chris Mejia. The AR306 crew included Pilot Sgt. Jon Anderson, Crew Chief Deputy Tommy Dickey, Medic Reserve deputies Steve Miller and Gordon Yee.

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