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Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

Press Release

LOG NUMBER

INVESTIGATING OFFICERS

360

2009

TIME OF CALL 0943 HOURS DATE December 13, 2009 DAY SUNDAY
CLASSIFICATION AIR-RESCUE 5 TECHNICAL RESCUE REPORTING OFFICER SERGEANT BARTH

TIME OF OCCURRENCE / DISCOVERY 7:30 AM UNIT SEB/EMERGENCY SERVICES DETAIL
LOCATION EATON CANYON DATE December 13, 2009
ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

THOMAS GUIDE PAGE
AND SECTION

C/P LOC

VICTIM(S) THREE MALE ADULTS SUSPECT(S) _____
ONE MALE JUVENILE

DNR

DNR



NOTIFY STATION WATCH COMMANDER PRIOR TO RELEASING CODE 20

SGT. INITIAL _____

WATCH CMDR. NAME _____ DATE _____ TIME _____ HOURS

NARRATIVE: ON DECEMBER 12, 2009, AT APPROXIMATELY 4:30 P.M. A GROUP OF FOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS, WHILE HIKING IN EATON CANYON, ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST, BECAME TRAPPED BY A TORRENT OF WATER AND DEBRIS FLOW. ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WAS ABLE TO CALL FOR HELP VIA HIS CELLULAR TELEPHONE AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ALTADENA SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM WAS DISPATCHED. TEAM MEMBERS ARRIVED ON SCENE AND DETERMINED THE GROUP WAS IN SUCH A PRECARIOUS POSITION WITH WATER RAGING ALL AROUND THAT AN IMMEDIATE RESCUE WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER THE WATER AND DEBRIS FLOW SUBSIDED. THE TEAM MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE VICTIMS WATER PROOF CLOTHING AND PARTIAL SHELTER FROM THE ELEMENTS AND SECURED THEM AT THE SCENE. AS NIGHT FELL AND THE RAIN AND STORM FLOW INTENSIFIED, TEAM MEMBERS DECIDED THAT A HELICOPTER RESCUE AT FIRST LIGHT WOULD BE THE HIKERS ONLY PRUDENT WAY OUT OF THE FOREST. TEAM MEMBERS SECURED THE GROUP AT THE SCENE AND AWAITED A SHERIFF'S HELICOPTER.

CITY NEWS _____ (485-3535) MEDIA PAGE _____ (800-677-4649)

REVISED: 11-05-07



COPY TO
LIEUTENANT .



SENT TO
WEBMASTER

WRITTEN BY: SGT. PHIL BARTH
APPROVED BY: _____

LOG NO. 360

DATE: 12/13/2009

SHERIFF'S HEADQUARTERS BUREAU --- CODE 20
CONTINUATION PAGE 2 OF 2

THIS MORNING (12/13/2009) AT 7:30 A.M. SHERIFF'S AIR-RESCUE 5 LOCATED THE GROUP AND LOWERED A RESCUE PARAMEDIC TO THE VICTIMS. ALL FOUR WERE SAFELY HOISTED INTO THE AIRCRAFT AND REUNITED WITH FAMILY MEMBERS. THE THREE MEN AND A BOY WERE ALL COLD AND SHAKEN, BUT OTHERWISE UNHARMED. ONE MEMBER OF THE GROUP DESCRIBED THE SCENE AS ONE OF THE MOST FRIGHTENING SITUATIONS HE HAD EVER ENCOUNTERED. HE WAS THANKFUL TO BE ALIVE AS HE WAS ALMOST SWEEPED AWAY BY THE WATER AND DEBRIS FLOW IN THE CANYON.

HIKERS ARE REMINDED THAT ENTRY INTO THE FOREST DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS. ALWAYS CHECK THE CURRENT WEATHER CONDITIONS AS WELL AS THE FORECAST BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR HIKE.