

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE February 1, 2009
TIME 7:00 PM

Sheriff's Helicopter Rescues Injured Man in Steep Canyon

Tracy, CA- Today shortly after 12:30pm, the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Helicopter was requested to assist with a rescue at Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area located in the southern hills of San Joaquin and Alameda Counties. The rescue was for a male victim who crashed on his dirt bike in a steep canyon and medical vehicles were unable to get to him.

Within 15 minutes of being dispatched, the two-man flight crew of the Sheriff's Department Helicopter, Pilot Deputy Ron Haver and Tactical Flight Officer Deputy Steve Hatzigeorgiou was on scene. The victim had sustained injuries to his head and back. Fire department and medical personnel were able to get to the victim and stabilize him on a backboard. The Flight Officer put on his harness and hooked the rescue line to the bottom of the helicopter. The Pilot then lifted the Flight Officer on the rescue rope and placed him next to the victim at the bottom of the 300-foot canyon. The Flight Officer then assisted in moving the victim to a rescue basket and secured him to it in order to prepare him for the rope rescue flight. The Pilot lifted both the Flight Officer and the victim up with the 100-foot rescue line under the helicopter and flew them to awaiting medical helicopter.

"The ability for Stanislaus County Sheriff's Departments Air Support Unit to provide such rescue resources to citizens can not be minimized," said Air Support Unit supervisor Sgt Rob Latapie. "Getting the victim the critical care needed as well as preventing possible further injury to the victim during ground extraction from dangerous areas is priceless."

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.

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