

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

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



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE 12-14-10
TIME 4:40 PM**

SUICIDAL MAN RESCUED AFTER LOVER'S LEAP FALL

Knights Ferry, CA – A 25-year-old San Joaquin County man was rescued from the base of “Lover’s Leap” after a failed suicide attempt early Tuesday morning.

Deputies with the Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department responded to 16601 Highway 108/120 at approximately 1:33 a.m., on a report of a man whom was reportedly injured and lost somewhere in a field. Information was relayed to dispatchers through the man’s father at first, but then a second call was received from the injured man himself. Apparently, the injured man used his own cell phone to call for help.

The man was reportedly despondent over a recent breakup with his girlfriend. After reportedly consuming pills and alcohol, the man drove to an area near Lover’s Leap and later intentionally jumped off the cliff’s edge in an apparent suicide attempt. He had previously told family members that he did not intend on ever returning home. The fall from the top of Lover’s Leap to the ravine down below was estimated to be in excess of 200-feet. However, tree branches broke the man’s fall and the cool overnight temperatures and rain softened the ground below.

Stanislaus County Sheriff’s deputy Randon Kirkbride was assigned to the east county beat and was the first law enforcement official to arrive on-scene. Deputy Kirkbride located the injured man by shouting his name and then listening for the victim’s response. The deputy traversed his way down the cliff by crawling on his stomach, holding on to branches and tree limbs to steady himself, and did so without any other professional climbing equipment. Deputy Kirkbride soon made his way to the man’s side, administered first aid, and helped to further stabilize the fall victim until firefighters were able to help with the rescue. The rescue attempt took hours to complete because of the rough terrain.

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Two separate air ambulances tried to land in the area near the scene, however, their efforts were unsuccessful due to the inclement weather. The Sheriff's Department launched their own helicopter in an attempt to air lift the victim out via a long line. However, due to the darkness and other weather related conditions, it was deemed unsafe to continue the attempts during the nighttime hours. Firefighters and emergency medical technicians with Oakdale Fire, Oakdale Rural Fire, Stanislaus Rural Fire and Oak Valley Ambulance Services also assisted in the nearly six-hour extraction.

Rescuers were eventually able to bring everybody out of the ravine by boat through the river's access near Crawford Road. The man was rushed to a Modesto-area hospital, where he is currently being treated for his serious injuries. His exact status was not known at the writing of this press release.

For further information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).