

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

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



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: 9-08-10
TIME: 11:00 AM

SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL TO BE RECOGNIZED

HUGHSON, CA- Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Sergeant John Walker, and Deputy Jesse Grogan, who is assigned to the Hughson Police Services, will both be recognized by the Hughson City Council next week for their heroic actions during the course of a working structure fire evacuation. On Mon., Aug. 30, 2010, at approximately 9:20 p.m., while on his regular patrol duties, Sgt. Walker was flagged down by a concerned citizen near the intersection of Tully and Fox Roads in Hughson. The citizen reported a home in the 6700 block of Fox Road was on fire and possibly fully engulfed in flames. Sgt. Walker notified dispatchers of the emergency and consequently asked for the assistance of Hughson Fire in order to extinguish the flames.

Once Sgt. Walker arrived on scene, he quickly assessed the situation and observed a vehicle parked inside of a detached carport fully engulfed and threatening the structural integrity of the nearby residence. He promptly took the initiative to evacuate those inside the home, which included an elderly woman and five children whom needed immediate assistance. As the first four occupants were escorted out, the homeowner indicated two more children were still inside sleeping. Realizing time was of the essence, Sgt. Walker entered the house a second time and actually carried the two remaining youngsters out of the home. Firefighters later remarked that any type of delay on Sgt. Walker's behalf would have caused the house to become fully engulfed before all of the occupants could have been safely evacuated.

Despite the heat, smoke, and other obvious personal dangers of entering a burning home without usual firefighting equipment, Sgt. Walker and Dep. Grogan made sure to re-enter the house a third and final time to ensure no other occupants were inside or further threatened. Hughson Police Services Chief Janet Rasmussen commended both men for their "selflessness" and "heroic actions" that night and encouraged members of the community to join her at the Hughson City Council general meeting on Mon., Sept. 13, 2010 at 7 p.m., where they will be recognized for their distinguished service that went above and beyond the normal call of duty. The Hughson City Council Chambers are located at 7018 Pine Street.

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