



MONO COUNTY

SHERIFF

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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: July 22, 2013

RE: Search and Rescue Team Operation: Aid to an ill backpacker on the John Muir Trail

On the evening of Saturday, July 20, 2013, Mono County Sheriff's Dispatch received an emergency call from a SPOT satellite device warning of an ill and/or injured hiker on the John Muir Trail.

The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) team was dispatched to the area. A father, age 52, and son, age 22, from Clovis, CA, were backpacking from Lake Edison to Tuolumne Meadows when the father became ill and activated his emergency notification device. The SAR team responded and hiked approximately 8 miles, throughout the night, toward the location indicated by the SPOT device on the John Muir Trail near Rush Creek. The team interviewed other hikers who had helped the ill man cope with dehydration and nausea. The team requested air support and Helicopter 551 from Yosemite National Park was able to fly into the location and land near the ill backpacker. He was medically evaluated and evacuated to Crane Flat in Yosemite National Park. The son was able to continue the hike and walk out to Tuolumne Meadows.

Written and prepared by: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer