



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### - Helicopter Evacuation -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. March 21, 2011 – At 11:50 am, Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBC FD) and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department (SO) completed their rescue of 18 people in the area of Nira Campground.



The two groups of scouts consisted of 12 children and 6 adults and were from Lompoc and Camarillo. The Fire Department and Sheriff's Department established a unified command to conduct the rescue efforts. A total of four helicopter rescue trips were necessary (two by fire and two by sheriff) to transport the scouts. The rescue effort was hampered by strong winds and snow during the rescue limiting the amount of people that could be carried on each helicopter.

The scouts were transported to the Santa Ynez Airport and checked by firefighters for hyperthermia. There were no injuries reported other than being cold, tired and hungry. The scouts were reunited with their families at the Solvang Veteran's Memorial Building.

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