



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE CHIEF

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Helicopter Rescue of Hikers -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. June 13, 2011 – At 4:42 pm, Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBC FD) responded to a reported medical emergency on the trail to Davy Brown Camp, located in the Los Padres National Forest. The incident involved four hikers and two dogs.

SBC FD responded an engine, a battalion chief, and a helicopter to the incident. SBC was assisted by the US Forest Service and a helicopter from Cal Star. Firefighters responded to the scene and helicopter 308 was able to locate the hikers on the trail, on an east facing slope. One of the hikers was reportedly suffering from dehydration. Firefighters were unable to land in the general area and had to establish a landing zone, ¼ mile away. Firefighter / paramedics hiked to the party, treated the patient at the scene and assisted the parties up to the landing zone. The hiking party was tired, lost and completely out of water. Three of the hikers, including the patient, were flown to the Santa Ynez Airport via SBC FD helicopter 308. The patient was further evaluated by firefighter / paramedics at the airport. The patient refused treatment and transportation to the hospital. The remaining hiker, two dogs and one firefighter were assisted by Sheriff's Search and Rescue and transported to Santa Ynez Airport by ground.

About 40 minutes into this incident, at 5:18 pm, SBC FD received another call for assistance involving a helicopter rescue. SBC FD responded to a report of a person that was bitten by a rattle snake in the Red Rock camp ground area. SBC FD responded one engine, a battalion chief and requested a helicopter. Because helicopter 308 was committed to the Davy Brown Incident, the Cal Star helicopter was redirected to the Red Rock incident. Firefighter / paramedics treated and stabilized the patient on scene while awaiting the Cal Star helicopter. Cal Star was able to assist SBC FD and transport the patient to the hospital.

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