



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHP Helicopter conducts hoist rescue of an severely injured hiker

Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County

On February 28, 2015 at approximately 1620 hours, CHP Air Operations received a request from Marin County Fire to assist with the rescue of a hiker that had fallen approximately 70' - 80' from a cliffside onto the rocks below. The victim hit the rocks before falling into the surf. The victim was able to drag himself onto a rock outcropping. The hiker, a 24 year old male, was visiting the area with a church group. After the victim fell, two good Samaritan bystanders ran down a nearby single track trail to a beach area and were able to swim to the rock outcropping to reach the injured party while others in his party ran until they were able to get cell phone service to call for help. CHP Helicopter 30 (H-30) responded to the area and arrived first on-scene. H-30 landed on a bluff overlooking the Arch Rock Area. H-30's crew quickly briefed a Marin County Fire Captain before hoisting the Fire Captain to the small rock outcropping where the injured party was located. The Fire Captain was able to package the victim for hoist extraction. H-30 returned and hoisted the victim and fire captain to the helicopter. H-30 then flew the victim to the Bear Valley visitor center to transfer the patient to an awaiting ambulance. The ambulance transported the patient to a nearby trauma center with major injuries. After delivering the patient to the ambulance, H-30 returned to Arch rock and hoisted the 2 good Samaritans to safety. Due to the tide rising during the course of the rescue, the good Samaritans had no way to get to safety without the assistance of H-30. The tide was coming in and was a serious concern during the course of the rescue.

The California Highway Patrol Golden Gate Division Air Operations unit, based at the Napa County Airport, operates four aircraft (two airplanes and two helicopters) which patrol approximately 6,923 square miles that incorporates a residential population of more than 7 million people. The helicopter is routinely staffed with a CHP Officer/Pilot and a CHP Officer/Paramedic. The helicopter is equipped with a rescue hoist that has 165 feet of rescue cable that can lift patients and/or rescuers, that can weigh up to 450 pounds, into the helicopter.

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