



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 8, 2016

## **CHP Helicopter Hoist Rescue at Rodeo Beach**

### **Rodeo Beach, Marin County, CA**

On March 8<sup>th</sup> at approximately 1050 Hours, Southern Marin Fire requested assistance from CHP Helicopter 32 (H-32) with a rescue of a 33 year old man from Marin that had become stuck on a cliff side above the ocean above Rodeo Beach.. H-32 was requested for a hoist rescue due to the rugged, difficult terrain.

The victim was approximately 30 feet up the cliffside from the ocean below and 80 feet from the top of the bluff. The victim couldn't climb anymore as he had exhausted himself trying to find a way to climb to safety and the tide had come in as well as darkness had set in.

H-32 arrived at the location approximately 10 minutes after the initial call. H-32 landed on a nearby bluff, reconfigured the aircraft for a hoist rescue and proceeded to the victim's location.

The crew of H-32 lowered an extraction collar to the victim who put it on and the helicopter crew hoisted him into the aircraft. The rescue lasted approximately 2 minutes.

The victim was transported to a nearby landing area and evaluated by the CHP Flight Officer Paramedic to ensure he hadn't suffered and injury. The victim had no complaint of injury.

After speaking with the victim, it was discovered that he had been walking on Rodeo Beach the previous evening at approximately 5 PM and decided to take a shortcut up the cliff to where his vehicle was parked. After climbing up the cliff, he was unable to find a route to the top and then became stuck as the tide came in and darkness fell. The victim did not have his cell phone with him and spent the night on the cliff side. In the morning he was able to alert hikers nearby and they called 911.

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The California Highway Patrol Golden Gate Division Air Operations unit, based at 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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