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Richard C. Scholl
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MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- PRESS RELEASE -

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

To: All Media Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: May 17, 2011

Source: Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team (SAR)

Subject: Injured Backcountry Skier

On Saturday, May 14th, 2011, the Mono County Sheriff volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called out in aid of an injured backcountry skier. James McHugh, age 38, of Lake Tahoe, CA, was skiing with friends near the third pillar of Mt. Dana, a popular backcountry spring ski descent three miles northeast of Tioga Pass. Mr. McHugh slid down approximately 150 feet, striking his head on a rock during the slide. His friends reached him quickly and began administering first aid. He suffered numerous cuts and abrasions and a possible head injury. The group activated a Spot Satellite GPS Messenger and also had a member of their group ski down to their vehicles to obtain cell service to contact the Mono County Sheriff's Department. The SAR team sent rescue teams to Mr. McHugh's location as his friends began sliding him down the 1,500 foot slope. Due to his possible head injury and remote location, a Navy Seahawk helicopter from Fallon Naval Air Station was requested and responded to the scene. Mr. McHugh was ultimately lowered down the slope where SAR members and Mono County Paramedics reached him. He was transported to the ambulance via litter and then taken to Mammoth Hospital for treatment and evaluation.

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18-years-old) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Ralph Obenberger at (760) 932-7549.