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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: June 16, 2011

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

Subject: Injured Backcountry Snowboarder

On Saturday, June 11th, 2011, the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was called out to help a snowboarder with a broken leg. Payam Pakbin, age 28, of Los Angeles, CA, was walking up a steep, icy slope with a friend near Tioga Pass when he lost his footing and slid down into a rock field, suffering a femur fracture. Other backcountry skiers in the area heard his yelling and responded to help. One of the responders skied down to his vehicle and drove down Highway 120 until he was able to contact authorities on his cell phone. Luckily for Pakbin, among those at the scene was local orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Michael Karch. Dr. Karch skied out to Highway 120 and met with the responding SAR team personnel. He and a rescue team member then returned to the accident scene with medical equipment to stabilize Pakbin. The SAR team requested the aid of Yosemite National Park rescue helicopter for transport purposes due to Pakbin's severe injuries. The Park Service helicopter flew in two rescuers to the accident scene and was able to transport Pakbin to a waiting ambulance on Highway 120. He was taken to Mammoth Hospital for treatment for his injuries.

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.