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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

Source: Sgt. Tim Minder

Date: 09/17/10

Subject: Helicopter Crash

On Thursday, September 16, 2010, at approximately 6:25 p.m., the Mono County Sheriff's Department was informed by the Inyo National Forest dispatch center of a large black plume of smoke in the Glass Mountain Range. The smoke was believed to possibly be from a reported overdue aircraft enroute to Truckee, CA, via Bishop. Units from the Mono County Sheriff's Department, Inyo National Forest, and the Mono County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team responded to the area and a ground search was initiated.

At approximately 10:50 p.m., the pilot of the downed helicopter walked into the Benton Fire Department after hiking out of Taylor Canyon from the crash site. The pilot advised the fire department that his passenger was still at the crash site and was suffering from extensive injuries. Mono County Paramedics and Care Flight were dispatched to the Taylor Canyon area. The female passenger and the aircraft wreckage were located in the McLaughlin Springs area. Both the pilot and his passenger were flown by Care Flight to Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment.

The accident investigation is being conducted by the NTSB and FAA.

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.