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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: November 30, 2011

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

Subject: Aid to a possible helicopter crash

On Tuesday November 29, 2011, eleven members of the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) Team responded to a report of a possible helicopter crash. Residents in the Old Mammoth area reported the possibility of a helicopter crash in the Mammoth Pass/Mammoth Mountain area. Smoke was thought to have been seen in the direction the helicopter was last seen to have flown. Initially two SAR members responded to the area with an aircraft beacon (ELT) direction finder. Several readings were taken but no signal was heard. Contact was made with Mammoth Mountain, and personnel from the resort went to the top of Mammoth Mountain on snowmobiles but could confirm no evidence of a crash in the descending darkness from that vantage point. Contact was made with Hot Creek Aviation who confirmed a Eurocopter was refueled at Mammoth Airport, had two people on board, and was flying to Livermore. Just after 6 PM, the Livermore airport advised it had been in radio contact with the helicopter, which was safe.

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.