



PRESS RELEASE

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Paul Fontana, Chief
Golden Gate Division, Air Operations Unit
3500 Airport Road, Napa CA 94558

Contact: Officer James Andrews
707-257-0103
30Media@chp.ca.gov

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CHP Helicopter assists with search and rescue of capsized boat victims at 10 Mile Beach

10 Mile Beach, Marin County, CA

On October 3, 2015 at approximately 1415 hours, the Marin County Fire department requested assistance from the California Highway Patrol Air Operations unit's helicopter (H-30) to assist with a search and rescue of two victims from a capsized sailboat in the vicinity of 10 Mile Beach. Shortly after H-30's arrival, one of the victims was located behind a large log on the beach with 3 Good Samaritans protecting her from the 40-50 mph winds approximately ¼ mile south of the sailboat. H-30 landed on the beach and evacuated the victim to the Abbotts Lagoon trailhead parking lot where an ambulance was standing by for further medical evaluation. She appeared to have suffered a moderate leg injury. H-30 lifted off again, enlisting a Marin County Battalion Chief as an additional spotter, to search the nearby trails and beach for the second victim. The second victim was located on the beach near the boat lying down behind a large bush in the sand dunes between 2 additional Good Samaritans also protecting him from the high winds and blowing sand. The second victim showed no outward signs of injury, but was flown to the parking lot for further evaluation. The Good Samaritans provided the victims with their own dry clothes and protected both victims until they were rescued. The sailboat's journey had begun in Bodega Bay and was traveling to Drakes Bay when it encountered high winds which broke the main mast and then the tiller. The boat was then pushed ashore where it capsized onto 10 Mile Beach.

The California Highway Patrol Golden Gate Division Air Operations unit, based at the Napa County Airport, operates four aircraft (two airplanes and two helicopters) which patrol the 9 Bay Area Counties, approximately 6,923 square miles that is home to 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 cable that can lift patients and/or rescuers, with a cumulative weight up to 450 pounds.

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