



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHP Helicopter Rescues a Man In A Vehicle From A Pacifica Cliff

Pacifica, San Mateo, CA – At approximately 10:34 a.m., CHP Helicopter H-32 (H-32) was requested by the North County Fire Protection District to respond to Pacifica and assist them with a cliff rescue. The location of this incident was to the rear of Manor Drive in Pacifica. A male in his 50's had allowed his vehicle exit the roadway and drive down a cliff side. The vehicle came to rest on its left side approximately 300 feet down the cliff, in thick bushes, with the driver trapped in the vehicle. Access to the vehicle was extremely difficult and hazardous due to the recent storms and steep terrain.

North County Fire Protection District Firefighters set up a high-angle rope rescue system and gained access to the driver along with a Pacifica Police Officer. Firefighters began to extricate the driver and assess him for injuries. Due to the hazardous location, it was determined that a helicopter hoist rescue would be the safest and fastest way to remove the driver from the cliff. Helicopter 32 arrived overhead as the driver was being extricated from the vehicle. CHP Officer/Pilot D. Power maneuvered H-32 into a 100 foot hover over the scene as CHP Officer/Paramedic S. Bouyea lowered CHP Officer/Paramedic B. Schmidt down to the scene. Officer Schmidt placed the driver into hoist rescue equipment and the driver was then hoisted up to H-32. The driver was taken to a nearby park where he was transferred to a waiting American Medical Response ambulance for transportation to a trauma center with moderate, non-life-threatening injuries.

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 500 pounds.

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