Rescue Near Simi Valley

Updated---Ventura County firefighters, paramedics and Air Squad 8 conducted a difficult and time consuming rescue operation near Simi Valley Thursday afternoon that developed a potentially dangerous complication at a crucial moment.

It was reported shortly after 3 PM when a vehicle plunged 250-300 feet off Santa Susanna Pass Road near Box Canyon Road (see videos and other photos in the comments section).

Ventura County Fire Captain Mike Lindbery told KVTA News that it took rescuers some time to get down to the vehicle and the injured woman trapped inside.
Once they got there, getting her out of the vehicle that was wedged against some rocks took more time.

They assessed the patient, packaged her in a stokes litter and were preparing to hoist her and a paramedic up to the hovering Air Squad 8 when the copter suffered a bird strike and had to cut off the operation so it could land and check for any damage.

During that time the plan was to try to bring the patient back up to the road using a ground based rope operation but it proved extremely difficult given the location.

So, once Air Squad 8 was checked out and found to be OK, it resumed the hoist operation and brought the patient to a waiting ambulance that took her to the hospital with what were described by Lindbergy as minor to moderate injuries.