



# Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Date: 11/23/2013  
Time: 4:30 p.m.

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## News Release

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### **Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team Locate Two Overdue Hikers** **The Hikers are Located in the New Cuyama Area after Overnight Search**

**New Cuyama-** At approximately 7 p.m. on Friday, November 22, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office received a report that there were two overdue hikers in the Cuyama area. A Lompoc resident called 9-1-1 to report that her 59 year old husband and his friend, a 66 year old male from Santa Maria, had not returned from a day hike near McPherson Peak and she was concerned about their welfare.

Sheriff's Deputies responded to Aliso Park, which is approximately five miles southwest of New Cuyama, and located the vehicle associated with the hikers. They conducted a quick search of the area but were unable to locate the men. Members from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team responded and began looking for the hikers. Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit Copter 2 assisted with the search until it had to discontinue due to snowfall.

Sheriff's Search and Rescue volunteers tracked the hikers throughout the night and at 8 a.m. this morning, November 23, they were finally located. The men were found uninjured on a north facing slope in deep brush. Santa Barbara County Fire paramedics responded and evaluated the hikers who were found to be in good condition despite the near freezing temperatures they experienced overnight. The hikers said they had gone off the trail to make up some time and then found themselves in an area of thick brush without overnight equipment.

Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit Copter 3 responded to the scene. Due to the extremely rough terrain, the hikers and Search and Rescue personnel had to be transported out of the area.



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