



# Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office



Date: 12/3/2015

Time: 8:00 p.m.

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## News Release

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### Vermont Man and His Dog Rescued Near Rancho Oso

**Santa Barbara** - A Vermont resident and his beagle named Bunny who were staying at the Rancho Oso RV Park Resort and Campground off of Paradise Road were rescued today by members of the Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue team and the Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit.

Early this morning, the Vermont resident went looking for Bunny who had run off and was missing. The man found his beagle but became stranded in an area of the Los Padres National Forest with rough and steep terrain. He made it to an open area near a power line pole and began yelling for help. At approximately 2:15 p.m., campers heard his cries and called 9-1-1. Sheriff's deputies and a Santa Barbara County Air Support Unit helicopter responded to the area.

The Air Support crew flew the area and located the stranded hiker. However due to the steep terrain, the helicopter was unable to land. The Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue (SBCSAR) team was contacted. The Air Support crew picked up members of the SBCSAR team and flew them to an area above the location where the hiker and his dog were stranded. At approximately 4:30 p.m., team members hiked in and escorted Bunny and his owner to the helicopter where they were flown to safety.

American Medical Response paramedics were on scene to check their conditions. Both the Vermont resident and his beagle were a little dehydrated but otherwise in good condition.

Santa Barbara County Air Support and Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue also worked together for several hours the evening of December 2nd to locate a mountain biker in the Upper Oso area. The Canadian man was reported to likely be lost or stranded by a Santa Ynez mountain biker who met him earlier in the day and was concerned that he did not see him come back out. The mountain biker was wearing only biking shorts and a shirt and did not have any flashlight or provisions for the night.

Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team members and Santa Barbara County Air Support spent several hours looking for him but he was not located. Turns out, he found shelter for the night by finding a hole in the ground and covering himself up with leaves. The cyclist found his way out the next morning and was reported safe.

