



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Mims, Sheriff
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Two Separate Searches For Missing Hikers Over Night. Both Found Safe.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department's Search and Rescue Team was busy with two separate searches that both ended successfully earlier this morning.

The first reported search was reported yesterday at 4:00 pm in the area of Evolution Lake in northeast Fresno County.

63 year old Douglas Steakley of Carmel Valley, California had been reported missing while hiking in the area with two other subjects. The three were hiking to a particular small lake when Steakley became separated from the others. When it was apparent that Steakley was missing, one of the hikers used a satellite phone to report the incident to the Inyo County Sheriff's Department. Inyo County in turn advised the Kings Canyon National Park officials and a joint search was initiated by the park and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

This morning at approximately 9:00 am, Steakley was located by the California Highway Patrol's helicopter, "H40", in Fresno County just south of Golden Trout Lake. Steakley was found in good condition.

In the second search, last night at approximately 9:30 pm, 65 year old Dirk Walters of San Luis Obispo was reported missing after being separated from his hiking group in the area of South Lake in northeast Fresno County.

A full search and rescue effort was initiated and night ground searchers were deployed. This morning at approximately 5:30 am, Walters was located on a trail near Mystery Lake in good condition.

When found, Walters was packing up his camping gear and preparing to hike in the wrong direction which would have taken him further away from his group and searches. Walters was escorted by rescuers back to his hiking group.

