



**Fresno County Sheriff's Department**  
**Margaret Mims, Sheriff** **September 26, 2007**  
**News Release**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY: Overdue Hiker- Update**

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced that the missing hiker, Charles Edward Hench, was located earlier this morning at approximately 7:45 am.

Hench was located on a rock ledge near Italy Pass approximately 10 miles east of Edison Lake.

Hench was described as being in good condition overall but has suffered a broken wrist, dehydration and hypothermia in addition to cuts and abrasions. He is currently being treated at a hospital in Bishop.

Hench was located when the pilot of a private plane spotted him waving his arms. The pilot immediately contacted the CHP helicopter, H-40 who responded to the location. Hench was airlifted out of the area and immediately transported to the hospital.

Initial reports indicate that Hench had ridden out a storm near Italy Lake on Thursday night. On Friday, while attempting to get to Italy Pass, Hench suffered a fall breaking his wrist and losing his map and compass. Unable to go further, Hench waited at the location until he spotted the plane.

Hench had left Edison Lake in Fresno County on September 18<sup>th</sup> and was en route to Pine Creek in Inyo County. He was scheduled to arrive at Pine Creek on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. When he failed to show up, a search was initiated by the Fresno and Inyo County Sheriff Departments.

In an unrelated rescue, while returning from the Bishop hospital after dropping off Mr. Hench. The CHP's helicopter H-40 was contacted by ground searchers in Kearsarg Pass who had located a male subject that apparently had suffered a heart attack.

The subject was transported to the hospital in Bishop. His condition is unknown.

*(Local media outlets please pass this press release on to your affiliates in the central Coast area.)*