

San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team and LASD Participate in Downed Aircraft Training

On Saturday, November 16, 2013, over 60 members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department participated in a joint training exercise. After three months in the planning, the San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team, LASD's Disaster Communications Services members from San Dimas Station, Temple Station and Emergency Operations Bureau, and personnel from Sheriff's Communications Center worked together with San Bernardino Sheriff's West Valley Search and Rescue Team on several simulated downed aircraft scenarios in the Rancho Cucamonga area.



MCU-2 – Mobile Communications Unit

Search and rescue teams possess equipment capable of tracking the signals emitted from an aircraft's "black box" activated after a crash. Members from both counties' rescue teams were integrated into eight field teams, then given search assignments from a joint command post. Radio communications were facilitated by LASD's Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC), and radio work stations were manned by personnel from both departments.

One key component of this inaugural training exercise involved deploying interoperability technology on SCC's MCU-2, a Ford Excursion command vehicle recently rolled out for deployment with the San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team. With this equipment, rescue teams were able to patch together tactical frequencies from both counties so all personnel could transmit and receive radio traffic over standard issue radios. This technology allows for much greater communications on multi-agency



operations and will ultimately enhance rescuer safety on future incidents. This joint training and equipment testing was also a valuable preparation exercise in case of major disaster.

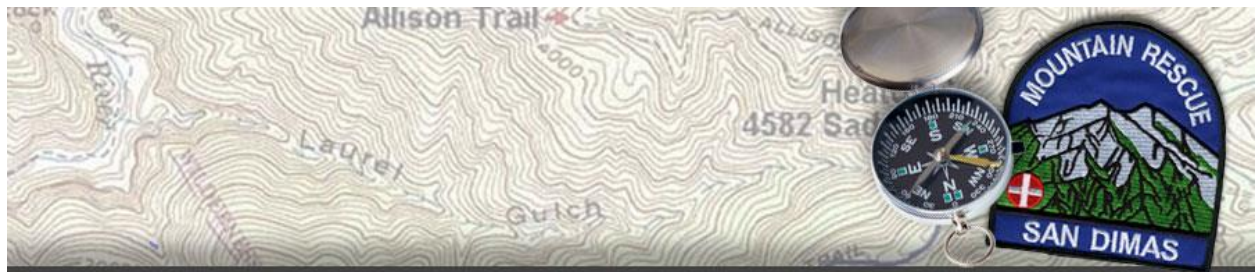


The San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team, founded in 1955, responds primarily to rescue calls in the San Gabriel Mountains from the Duarte border to the Mt. Baldy area, and from Orange County north to Crystal Lake and portions of Angeles Crest Highway. The team also routinely responds to assist with rescues in other areas of Los Angeles



County and other counties. In addition to a high volume of local rescue calls, the team recently responded to assist with rescues in San Diego, Riverside, Inyo, and Kern counties. Team functions include rescues of victims in vehicles “over the side” of roads, search and rescue of lost hikers or missing children, navigation, helicopter training, snow and ice rescue training, search and evacuation of brush fire areas, downed aircraft, and technical rescues in caves or other hard to reach places. The team also conducts preventative search and rescue training and presentations to children, youth and adults to help them from becoming victims.

A comprehensive training program of over two years trains each team member as an Emergency Medical Technician, Reserve Sheriff’s Deputy, and development required for certification by the Mountain Rescue Association. Part of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team is one of eight all-volunteer Search and Rescue teams that function as specialized units of the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department. Though the Department furnishes facilities, some vehicles and life-saving equipment to perform core Search and Rescue functions, the Teams are mostly funded by donations and grants from generous donors and supporters.



San Dimas Mountain Rescue Team: <http://www.sdmrt.com/index.html>

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[San Dimas Sheriff's Station - Web site](#)

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Alert LA County: Telephone emergency mass notification system

<http://www.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla>

SNAP LA County: Specific Needs Disaster Voluntary Registry <http://snap.lacounty.gov/>

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LA Crime Stoppers: Partner to prevent or report crime by contacting your local Sheriff's station. Or if you wish to remain Anonymous, call "LA Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>

Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department