



RESCUE BEACON

NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



RECENT EVENTS

- May 29:** SAR Mission
- Jun. 7:** SAR at Pebble Beach Fire Open House
- Jun. 6-7:** SAR Mission
- Jun. 10-12:** MRA Training Courses
- Jun. 13:** SAR Mission
- Jun. 14:** Monthly Training/Mapping, Electronics, & Technology

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun. 18:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)
- Jul. 4:** SAR at Monterey 4th of July Celebration
- Jul. 12:** Monthly Training/ Small Diameter Rope Rescue

BOARD

- Commander:** Sierra Rad
- Secretary:** Joshua Lenzini
- Treasurer:** Alex Mares
- Volunteer Coordinator:** Rafael Mendez
- Training Coordinators:** Wesley Hayward & Justin Kantor

In This Issue: Mission Update, Training Updates; Community Event; SAR in Action

SAR MISSION, MAY 29

Successful Rescue in Garrapata State Park

On the afternoon of May 28, a 69-year-old woman went missing after setting out on a hike in Garrapata State Park. When she failed to return, a search effort was launched that evening. The following day, around noon, a Monterey County Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteer heard a faint call for help near the Soberanes Trail. They located the missing hiker—injured, but alive—after what appeared to be an overnight fall.

Three SAR volunteers made first contact and confirmed her condition. She was later airlifted by CHP H-70 and transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

This positive outcome was the result of outstanding teamwork and coordination among multiple agencies. We are deeply grateful for the support of:

- Santa Cruz County Search and Rescue
- Santa Clara County Search and Rescue
- Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit (BAMRU)
- San Mateo County Search and Rescue
- CHP - H70 Air Operations
- CAL FIRE
- California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA)
- Monterey County Urban Search & Rescue (USAR)

Every agency played an important role in this mission. Together, we brought someone home.



ABOUT US

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was established in 1963, with a volunteer unit formed in 1989 to assist the Sheriff's Office. Operating as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in partnership with the Sheriff's Advisory Council (SAC), the SAR team provides trained personnel and specialized equipment to support the recovery of sick, injured, lost, or deceased individuals across Monterey County. The team is a full member of the Mountain Rescue Association and is recognized as a Type I elite rescue unit. Comprised of both sworn deputies and dedicated volunteers, the Monterey SAR Team operates on a limited budget, relying on grants and donations to maintain its critical operations.



TRAINING UPDATES

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION TRAININGS, JUNE 10-12 SMALL DIAMETER ROPE RESCUE & HIGHLINE VS CROSSHAUL

Four of our SAR team members recently attended two advanced, three-day technical rescue trainings to deepen their skills and bring back valuable knowledge to the team.

The first course, Highline vs. Crosshaul, was hosted by Peak Rescue in Wyoming and focused on comparing the efficiency, gear requirements, and anchor loads of highlines versus crosshauls. Over three days, attendees designed and constructed both systems across a bay, tested them in real-world scenarios, and analyzed their performance to determine the ideal use cases for each. Their findings will contribute to a presentation at the upcoming MRA Conference.

The second course, Small Diameter Rope Rescue, offered hands-on training in using 8mm and 9.5mm rope in technical rescue settings. With a focus on lightweight gear and modern techniques, this course was geared toward experienced rope rescuers and emphasized both the capabilities and limitations of small-diameter systems.

We're proud of our members' dedication to staying on the cutting edge of rescue techniques and look forward to applying these insights in the field.



MONTHLY TRAINING - TECHNOLOGY, MAPPING, AND OPERATIONS, JUNE 14



This past weekend, Monterey County SAR volunteers gathered for a hands-on training focused on technology in field operations. Topics included effective use of Garmin inReach devices, Caltopo for map building, and incident command (IC) operations. These skills are essential for improving coordination, situational awareness, and communication during real-world missions.

JOIN US



The Monterey County SAR Team is always looking for qualified new volunteers. If you feel that you have what it takes to join the team, visit our website to for more information: mcosar.com/apply

COMMUNITY EVENTS

PEBBLE BEACH FIRE OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC SAFETY DAY, JUNE 7

Monterey County Search and Rescue volunteers took part in the Pebble Beach Fire Department Open House and Public Safety Day, hosted by CAL FIRE and the Pebble Beach Community Services District. We set up a display of our gear and connected with attendees of all ages, sharing hiking and trail safety tips, answering questions about rescue operations, and promoting preparedness in the backcountry. It was a great opportunity to engage with the community and support public safety outreach alongside our partner agencies.



SUPPORT US

*Give a little, help a lot
So That Others May Live*



501(C)(3)
EIN: 77-0118273

The Monterey County SAR Team in partnership with SAC is a nonprofit, charitable organization that receives a limited allocation each year from the Sheriff's Office to help offset the cost of equipment, uniforms, and training. The great majority of our operational budget is funded directly by the volunteer unit from donations, grants, and fundraising efforts. Our volunteers are unpaid and must purchase the personal gear they need themselves. We have a substantial and ongoing need to replace team equipment and to seek professional training in the many disciplines needed to be a proficient SAR unit. You can support us by donating online at [MCO SAR.COM](https://www.mcosar.com).

SAR IN ACTION



SAR Mission May 29



Advanced Rope Training by MRA



CONTACT US:

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FOLLOW US:

FB: facebook.com/mocosar
IG: mcso_sar

OUR LIFESAVING PARTNERS: DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our generous donors and supporters. Your contributions enable the Monterey County Search and Rescue team to continue our vital work, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. Your support is a lifeline to those in need, and we couldn't do it without you.



**Union Pacific Community Ties
Giving Program**



**The Rocky Talkie
Search & Rescue Awards**

