



# RESCUE BEACON

## NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



### RECENT EVENTS

- Oct. 21:** SAR mission
- Oct. 22:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)
- Oct. 25:** Fitness tests and interviews for SAR applicants
- Oct. 26:** SAR mission
- Nov. 8:** Monthly training/tracking
- Nov. 8:** SAR mission
- Nov. 14-16:** SAR mission
- Nov. 15:** Fitness tests and interviews for SAR applicants
- Nov. 19:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 20:** New volunteer swear-in ceremony
- Dec. 13-14:** Monthly training/ropes
- Dec. 15-31:** SAR board elections
- Dec. 17:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)

### BOARD

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

**In This Issue:** Training Update; Mission Report; SAR in Action

# TRAINING UPDATE

## NOVEMBER TRAINING UPDATE – SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE

In November 8, our team returned to the beautiful Santa Lucia Preserve for our annual tracking and search management training. We are grateful to the Preserve for generously hosting us every year and providing an ideal landscape for realistic field scenarios.

Nearly 30 SAR volunteers and deputies participated in a full day of hands-on exercises. Teams rotated through multiple scenarios that required them to locate and track a missing subject, conduct patient assessment and medical care as needed, and then package and extract the patient safely. These drills integrated our core skills in tracking, medical response, and technical extraction, reinforcing the teamwork and readiness required for real-world missions.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Santa Lucia Preserve for their ongoing support and hospitality. Their partnership allows us to train effectively and continue serving our community at the highest level.



# 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.



**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](https://mcosar.com/apply)

# SAR MISSION UPDATE

## GARRAPATA STATE BEACH TRAGEDY

This month, our Search & Rescue team was deeply involved in a multi-agency response to a heartbreaking incident at Garrapata State Beach. On November 14, a family was struck by powerful waves—estimated to be 15-20 feet high—and tragedy quickly unfolded.

A 7-year-old girl, Anzi Hu of Calgary, Alberta, was swept into the water and her father, Yuji Hu (39), entered the surf in a courageous attempt to save her. Sadly, he was later pulled from the water by bystanders and an off-duty State Parks officer, but despite CPR and medical care, he did not survive. The girl's mother was also swept in but managed to make it back to shore and was treated for mild hypothermia.

Over the following days, multiple agencies—including Monterey County Search & Rescue, California State Parks, CAL FIRE, the U.S. Coast Guard, and CHP—mounted a large-scale search and recovery operation. On November 16, a volunteer diver located Anzi's body about half a mile north of her last known location, roughly 100 yards offshore, and brought her to shore. The Monterey County Coroner later formally identified her.

This mission was a tragic reminder of the ocean's power and the importance of coordinated multi-agency response. Our volunteers worked under challenging conditions to support the recovery effort.

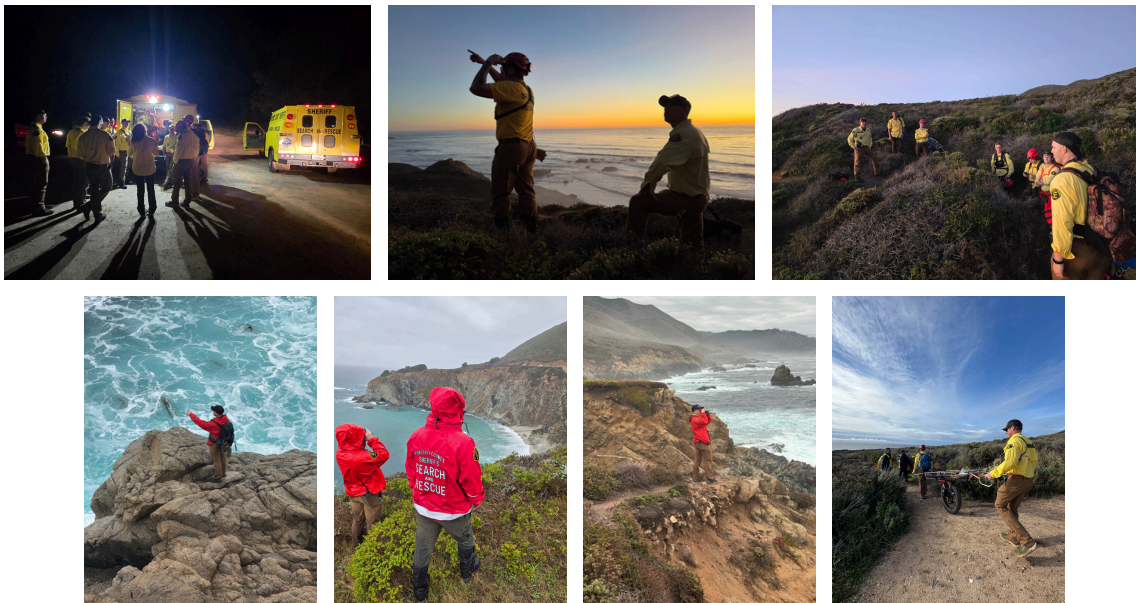
Our thoughts remain with the Hu family during this incredibly difficult time, and we extend gratitude to all partner agencies and bystanders who responded. As always, we also want to remind the public of the significant hazards posed by high surf, especially on exposed coastlines like Garrapata.



# SAR IN ACTION



**November Training at Santa Lucia Preserve**



**Various SAR Missions**



**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



### IN GRATITUDE

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FAMILY OF KEVIN KNOFF FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS MADE IN HIS MEMORY. THEIR SUPPORT HELPS US CONTINUE OUR MISSION OF RESCUING AND ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED IN THE WILDERNESS. WE ARE HONORED TO BE PART OF PRESERVING KEVIN'S LEGACY AND DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE TRUST THEY'VE PLACED IN OUR TEAM.

## 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 [MCOSAR.COM](https://www.mcosar.com).