



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
Public Affairs
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OCFA AND ANAHEIM HELICOPTERS RESCUE LOST FEMALE IN BLACK STAR CANYON

Coordination between Fire and Law Enforcement Results in Successful Rescue

Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Anaheim Police Department Air resources worked together to find and rescue a missing female this morning in the Black Star Canyon.

“This is an excellent example of how fire and law enforcement resources work together to perform search and rescue operations in tough conditions,” said OCFA Division Chief Dave Steffen. “Aerial firefighting and rescue missions at night under Night Vision Goggles (NVG) are some of the most challenging missions for our helicopter flight crews. The incident was well coordinated with the Anaheim Police Department Helicopter, Angel One conducting a search for the victim and then marking the victim’s location with a laser. This allowed for our Helicopter 1 to quickly acquire the victim without having to conduct a search.”

The victim was rescued from a cliff by OCFA’s rescue paramedic, using a hoist cable that was attached to the rescuer and the victim together. This is referred to as a “pick off” maneuver. She was transported by air to the Loma Ridge Helipad, where she was evaluated by waiting OCFA medics.

OCFA’s Helicopter program is staffed with a Fire Pilot, Fire Captain Crew Chief, and a Firefighter Paramedic Rescuer 24 hours per day, 7 days a week for these types of missions.

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The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.8 million residents in 23 cities