



# Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office



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Time: 1:15 p.m.

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## News Release

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### Sheriff's Search and Rescue Respond to Two Over-the-Side Vehicles at Gibraltar Road Within 24 Hours

**Santa Barbara** – Last night, September 22, 2016, just before 10 p.m., emergency personnel from the Montecito Fire Protection District, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Search and Rescue, American Medical Response and California Highway Patrol responded to a 9-1-1 call from two male individuals in their twenties that had driven off the road near 2900 Gibraltar Road. After rolling over down the steep cliff side several times their vehicle came to rest against another vehicle 400 feet down that had gone down the side only 20 hours earlier.

Initially, the location was not known as there was no witnesses to the car going over the side. Dispatchers with the Santa Barbara County Public Safety Dispatch Center helped to locate the subjects by 'pinging' a cell phone. Once they made contact with the victims, the dispatch supervisor provided medical pre-arrival instructions and instructed the men to turn their car lights on. Rescue personnel were driving and walking the side of the road when a CHP officer spotted their headlights off a steep sharp corner.

Using a combined mutual aid response, rescue personnel set up ropes to lower fire/paramedics from Montecito Fire along with Search and Rescue personnel to medically treat the two males and secure them in a stretcher. Additional personnel from Sheriff's Search and Rescue and Santa Barbara City Fire rappelled down to the car to assist while rope systems were set up on Gibraltar Road to raise the two men in 'Stokes' Stretchers. Two different rope evolutions were required to raise the victims back to the road where they were turned over to AMR paramedics for treatment and transport to a local hospital. Their injuries appeared to moderate but their conditions are unknown at this time.

This rescue follows another car over the side incident that occurred at 2 a.m. yesterday at the same location. In that case, two males in their early 20's from Santa Barbara were driving up Gibraltar Road when they did not successfully navigate the sharp turn in the road and went off the side. Fortunately, the two occupants were not seriously injured and Santa Barbara County Fire and Sheriff's Search and Rescue personnel with rope systems were able to raise the men back up 400 feet to Gibraltar Road where they were transported by AMR paramedics to a local hospital.

The Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue Team want to take this opportunity to remind all those driving on backcountry roads to be extra careful and attentive to driving the sharp and steep turns.

