



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Time: 5:00 p.m.

News Release

Sheriff's Office Takes Lead on Search for Missing Pilot

Santa Barbara, Calif. – At 7:09 a.m. on Sunday, September 27, 2020, Sheriff's dispatch was notified of a plane that lost communications with the Santa Barbara Airport tower. Deputies responded to the area of Goleta Beach along with County Fire, County Air Support, and the Coast Guard to assist with search efforts for the plane that was reported to have crashed into the ocean, approximately two miles off of Campus Point.

Today, the Coast Guard suspended their search and rescue efforts and transitioned command to the Sheriff's Office for a missing person investigation. The Sheriff's Office has requested assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Special Enforcement Bureau's Dive program ([SEB Dive](#)) due to the depth of the location and equipment required for this operation. SEB Dive arrived at the scene today with their Ocean Rescue boat and members of the SEB Dive team that are capable of dives to depths of 300 feet sea water. Divers will be searching for a Cessna 182 Skylane and its solo occupant, 61-year-old Deborah Nicholson from the Lake Tahoe area.

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