



U.S. Forest Service
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611
Voice: 559-297-0706
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/sierra/
Twitter: @sierra_nf

Media Advisory

Media Contact: Dirk Charley
559-297-0706 ext. 4805
dcharley@fs.fed.us



Media Advisory – Aircraft Mishap Training Exercise involving Lemoore Naval Air Station, Sierra National Forest, Madera County and other Federal and State agencies.

CLOVIS, Calif. July 9, 2014 – On Thursday, July 10th there will be an Aircraft Mishap Exercise that features joint training between the Lemoore Naval Air Station (LNAS), Sierra National Forest, Madera County Sheriff's Office – Search and Rescue (SAR), and other federal and state agencies at the Minarets Work center on the Sierra National Forest near Mammoth Pool.

The purpose of the exercise is a quick reaction scenario designed to train and evaluate SAR/Mobile Command Unit response and interaction to a military Aircraft Mishap in mountainous terrain. It will also provide NAS Squadron Aviation Safety Officers a realistic Incident Command Post (ICP) operation and protocols.

The training exercise, the "Minarets Incident" is based upon the scenario of a mid-air collision between two F/A – 18 aircraft while they were in transit from a Military operating area near NAS Fallon and NAS Lemoore.

Key messages:

- Proactive regional approach to Military Aircraft mishaps. Designed to enhance the capabilities of all responders.
- Mobilize and utilize interagency resources using National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the common operating tool.
- Test Mobile Command Unit Communications systems from remote location.
- Train Law Enforcement, Fire & first responders within the NAS Lemoore operating area on Navy aircraft mishap and SAR techniques.
- Assist responders in developing an environmental response protocol.

For tomorrow's schedule, Thursday, July 10th, there will be a briefing in the morning beginning at 8:a.m.; a training seminar for first responders from 10 a.m. to 2:p.m;

And a mock press conference at 2:p.m. Incident Public Information Officers (PIO) will provide for visuals.

Travel time to the Minaret's Work Center – Incident Command Post (ICP) is approximately 2 hours 15 minutes, a distance of 80 eighty miles from the Clovis area. For more information regarding this training exercise please contact Lt. Katy Gray or Melinda Larson, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Air Station Lemoore at (559) 841-4106.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.