LOST 5 YEAR OLD CAMPER FOUND SAFE

Kings Mountain Area of San Mateo County, California: On Saturday evening, October 1, 2011 at approximately 7:54 PM, San Mateo County Public Safety Communications received a 911 call from the mother of a 5 year old girl, reporting her daughter missing. The family was part of a large overnight camping trip at Huddart Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road near the Town of Woodside. The park is approximately 900 wooded acres and contains areas of heavy forest, vegetation and steep ravines.

At approximately 7:15 PM, the little girl was playing with friends, became frightened for some reason and ran away from the area. Within minutes, her parents realized she was missing and began to search the area. They were assisted by numerous members of their camping group. After a short time, the child’s mother called 911 for help.

Patrol Deputies from the Sheriff’s Office initially responded and joined search efforts with the Huddart Park Rangers from the San Mateo County Parks Department. Additional assistance was requested from the Sheriff’s Area Office of Emergency Services. A helicopter from the California Highway Patrol was also requested and dispatched to help look for the child. Approximately 75 persons, mostly volunteers with the Sheriff’s Office Search & Rescue Units including K-9 team responded for a large scale search effort. Although the nearby area is sparsely populated, an “SMC Alert” was initiated to inform residents of the missing child.

At approximately 11:30 PM, the child was sighted by the CHP helicopter. She had been wearing a “glow stick” necklace and carrying a flashlight. The little girl had become very disoriented and wandering into a steep gorge. Ground search teams were guided in by the CHP helicopter crew and located the girl less than a mile away from the campsite. She was re-united with her very grateful parents. The child appeared uninjured however was transported to a local hospital to be checked out for any possible injuries or exposures to the weather or other elements.