



Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station

23740 W. Magic Mountain Parkway,
Valencia CA 91355
(661) 255-1121

www.lasd.org

Press Release

Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

Classification:	Critical Missing Person rescued	Incident Date:	March 5, 2010
Author/Date/Time:	Lt. M Hershey/03-06-2010 / 1214 PM	Incident Time:	Approximately 5:00 AM

Incident Location:	Sierra Highway off-ramp of the 14 Freeway, Canyon Country Ca
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Missing Person:	Humberto Lara MH/65

Narrative:

On March 4th, 2010, Humberto Lara MH/ 65, who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease, was reported missing from his home on Sandy Drive in Canyon Country at 06:00 AM. The family dog was also missing from their home. Deputies arrived and a "Critical Missing Person Broadcast" was made. Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station field crews conducted a neighborhood grid search without success. The Santa Clarita Valley Station Search and Rescue Team, the Off-Road Motorcycle team, Aero Bureau, and scent dogs were activated for the search. A "Missing Person's Bulletin" was sent to the local media, radio station "KHTS", and "The Signal" newspaper. Copies of the "Missing Person Bulletin" were distributed throughout the community, but the extensive search operation was suspended after all workable leads were exhausted.

Around 8:30 PM, the Lara family advised deputies that the family dog had returned without Mr. Lara. Deputies began another extensive search for Mr. Lara. At approximately 11:00 PM, a deputy was distributing the "Missing Person's Bulletin" at the "Chevron" gas station on "Via Princesa", when Mr. Durran Heaney, a night shift worker for "L & M Towing", saw the bulletin.

Mr. Durran sent a text message containing the bulletin's information to his partner, Mr. Larry Mason, at 12:05 AM on March 5th, 2010. Mr. Mason replied that he had seen someone matching that

For Additional Information Contact:

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**Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department**

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description (a Hispanic male wearing blue pajamas) walking with two dogs around 05:00 AM the previous day. Mr. Mason saw him walking on the side of the road near the northbound Sierra Highway off-ramp for the 14 Freeway.

After speaking with Mr. Durran, Mr. Mason contacted two deputies who were in the area and escorted them to the exact place where he had seen the man.

Based on this new information, deputies re-focused their search for Mr. Lara to the area identified by Mr. Mason. At around 1:36 AM, after an extensive search, Deputy Robert Tunnell located Mr. Lara down an embankment under a large bush. Mr. Lara was unable to move on his own and was helped up the embankment by Deputy Tunnell. Mr. Lara was taken to Henry Mayo Hospital for medical treatment. At the hospital, medical professionals suggested that Mr. Lara, due to his health, would likely not have survived as temperatures were expected to register in the mid 30's throughout the early morning hours.

Deputy Tunnell, Mr. Larry Mason, and the Lara family are available for interview upon request through Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station. Please contact Sgt. Steven Casaus at 661-255-1121 for more information.