

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Press Release

Subject: Technical Rescue Incident
Castle Rock Park
Walnut Creek

Date: November 26, 2010

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Shortly after 1pm on Thanksgiving Day, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded to a fall victim at Castle Rock Park in Walnut Creek. A 20-year-old male was doing some impromptu rock climbing and fell backward and straight down approximately 30 feet after the boulder he was holding onto dislodged from the face of the rock. He sustained serious injuries that are not considered life threatening.

A fire crew, ambulance, and park ranger drove approximately one mile into the park on a fire trail and then hiked uphill on foot for 20 minutes to reach the patient with a backboard and other emergency medical and rescue equipment. Once the injured hiker was located, it was determined the most feasible method for transportation off the hill was by helicopter. The California Highway Patrol's helicopter was used and their winch system was utilized to lower a line with an enclosed sling for hoisting the patient out of the immediate area. The helicopter transported the patient a short distance to the parking lot of the park where a waiting ambulance provided ground transportation to John Muir Hospital, Walnut Creek.

In addition to Fire and Emergency Medical response, the Fire District provides technical rescue services including low- and high-angle rescue, as well as confined space, trench, and water rescue with specialized equipment, apparatus, and specially trained personnel.