

SAR MISSION August 16, 2008

We were called as the SAR team was finishing with the helicopter re-quals for an injured hiker with a possible broken leg in the Chiricahua National Monument. We all responded thinking we were going to do a shorthaul and get him out. We could never find our victim, the person reporting the incident, so a ground search was started and the page out done. The US Park Service had sent one of their firefighters down the trail by himself to help look for our victim. (This was the F.F.'s first week on the job) Partially down the Echo Canyon trail the guy called the Park LEO on the radio to report he had gone off the trail and was now lost. Tucson Ranger had gone to Willcox for fuel and were on their way back when this call came in. They came up canyon located the firefighter and directed him back up to the trail. The Park Service LEO and Forest Service personnel went up canyon, located the firefighter who was now down with heat exhaustion, dehydration, possible head injury and broken collar bone. So we diverted Ranger and several team members to deal with that. We got to our patient, packaged him for shorthaul and Ursula flew with him down to the Park Entrance to an ambulance and AZ Lifeline. It was determined that he did not have any injured other than heat exhaustion and dehydration. The ambulance ended up transporting him to the Willcox Hospital where he was treated and released. He also almost broke Ursula's hand by squeezing it during the shorthaul.

The RACES team did not quite make it to the mission site when the mission was called. We were on Hwy 181 approaching Turkey Creek when we got turned around. Oh Well.

Bob
Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"The more you depend on others, the less happier you will be. Happiness is mostly about independence and freedom from past misery. You must forgive yourself for your errors or those errors will be permanently engraved in your memory!"

Timothy John Waterhouse