



"A Professional Service Agency"

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SEARCH CONTINUES FOR MISSING HIKER
Seventh Day of Intense Multiagency Search

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The seventh day of operation commenced, as search teams scoured the terrain in the John Muir Wilderness and Kings Canyon National Park in search of missing hiker Ric DeVan. DeVan, a 44 year-old experienced alpine mountaineer from San Diego, went missing after a solo hike in the Bishop Pass/ Treasure Lakes area. The massive multiagency search has included involvement throughout the week from Inyo County Search and Rescue, Kern County Search and Rescue, Tulare County Search and Rescue, CHP, Sequoia-Kings National Park Service, Forest Service, China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, San Bernardino Mountain Rescue, Mono County Search and Rescue, Yosemite Search and Rescue, Marin County Search and Rescue, San Dimas Search and Rescue, and Los Angeles Sheriff's Overhead Assistance Teams consisting of Sierra Madre Search and Rescue and Montrose Search and Rescue. California State OES has been essential in coordinating resource involvement. "The response from OES and the support from the teams involved have been unparalleled," stated Inyo County Sheriff's Sergeant, Keith Hardcastle.

"The absolute best and most skilled personnel have been working tirelessly to bring Mr. DeVan home," said Inyo County Sheriff, Bill Lutze. "This is more than a job – each member of the search team invests every ounce of their reserves, both emotionally and physically, into locating lost persons," said Lutze.

Canine teams, ground crews and helicopters are examining terrain from Mt. Agassiz to Mt. Gilbert and throughout the Treasure Lakes and Bishop Pass area in the John Muir Wilderness and Kings Canyon National Park. "Every lead we get is tracked and investigated meticulously and we will continue to investigate each lead that becomes available," reported Incident Commander, Inyo County Sheriff's Corporal Terry Waterbury.

DeVan's last confirmed location was a signed register book at the summit of Mt. Goode on July 4th. In the book DeVan stated that he would be traversing to Mt. Johnson, a neighboring peak, next. Search teams describe terrain between Mt. Goode and Mt. Johnson as treacherous, and extremely unstable. "The exposure of this traverse and steep

drop-offs make the climb between Mt. Goode and Trapezoid Peak particularly hazardous,” said spokeswoman for the National Park Services, Erika Jostad.

DeVan set out on a hike with his family on July 3rd out of South Lake toward Bishop Pass. Family went with DeVan as far as the Long Lake area; the plan was to rendezvous late in the afternoon on July 4th at Treasure Lakes after DeVan traversed the ridge from Bishop Pass to Mt. Johnson. Inyo County Search and Rescue were notified Saturday July 5th, after DeVan failed to show up as planned.

DeVan is said to be wearing a yellow shirt with black side panels, tan pants, light colored back-pack, grey jacket with black trim, a beige or green ball cap, and an orange, gold and purple National Geographic bandana. It is critical that anyone who may have seen or had contact with DeVan, especially after he signed the registration book on Mt. Goode on July 4th, contact the Sheriff's Department at (760) 878-0383.

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