



**SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner**

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**INFORMATION RELEASE** **09/02/14**  
**SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO CO-HOST SAREX EVENT**

The Solano County Office of Emergency Services, (OES) will be participating in Search and Rescue Exercise 2014 this coming weekend in Napa. SAREX 2014 is being co-hosted by the Solano County Sheriff's Office, Napa County Sheriff's Office, Lake County Sheriff's Office and the California Office of Emergency Services. SAREX 2014 begins Friday September 5<sup>th</sup> and runs through Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> at Napa's Skyline Wilderness Park.

The exercise will include classroom and hands-on training for volunteers from all over the state. This event will allow attendees to learn from each other as well as from expert instructors and guest speakers. Vendors will be on site demonstrating new rescue innovations. The California National Guard, California Highway Patrol and the Sonoma Sheriff's Aviation Unit will all have helicopters operating in the area. Volunteers will be trained to operate safely near helicopters as well as the proper loading and unloading of different types of aircraft. Helicopter activity will be centered in the southeast corner of the park in order to minimize impact on visitors. All-Terrain Vehicles will be limited to small sections of the park with training focused on safe operation, vehicle recovery and advanced trail maneuvers.

Guests at the three day event include:

Brian Brown, a Fire Captain and author of "Rescued: One Family's Miraculous Story of Survival" will speak about his experience stranded in the wilderness with his wife and daughter after a small airplane crash. He will be speaking about the impact of his experience and how trained volunteers made his rescue possible.

Mark Ghilarducci, Director of the California State Office of Emergency Services ([www.caloes.ca.gov](http://www.caloes.ca.gov)<<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/>>) Director Ghilarducci started his public safety career as a search and rescue volunteer and now serves on Governor Brown's Cabinet overseeing statewide emergency operations including the recent Napa earthquake.

Chris Boyer, President of the National Association for Search and Rescue ([www.nasar.org](http://www.nasar.org)<<http://www.nasar.org/>>) will address attendees regarding the challenges faced by SAR organizations today. Boyer started his career as a SAR volunteer in Contra Costa County and now oversees national curriculum on training search and rescue volunteers.

To attend this event you must have pre-register and be affiliated with a state recognized Search and Rescue Team. More information can be obtained by going to the web site at [www.SAREX.org](http://www.SAREX.org). Media wanting additional information may call Incident Commander Kevin Ives of the Solano County Office of Emergency Services at (707) 580-4983.

*Dedicated to Community Service*

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