

OFFICE OF THE
SHERIFF
INYO COUNTY, CA



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"A Professional Service Agency"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2016

SAR in Tecopa

On the evening of Friday March 11th Inyo County Sheriff's Dispatch was contacted regarding a cellular phone that was found in the desert east of Tecopa. It was determined that the cellular phone belonged to 83-year old James "Billy" Liles of Carmel, CA. Mr. Liles had been camping near Tecopa about two miles from where the cellular phone was discovered. On Saturday March 12th ten Inyo County Search and Rescue members, and three local Bureau of Land Management rangers began searching the Tecopa area, including the Armargosa Wash. Assisting in the search was CHP helicopter H-80 out of Apple Valley.

Interviews with family indicate that the Tecopa area is a location that Mr. Liles has frequented in the past; and that he enjoys photographing the natural surroundings. If anyone has any information that may assist in locating Mr. Liles, please contact Sheriff's Dispatch at 760-878-0383. It is believed that he carries a 6-foot long walking stick and dresses in muted colors.

