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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Barker Ranch Update**

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The Inyo County Sheriff's Department commenced excavation at Barker Ranch today in search of suspected human remains. According to Lieutenant Jim Jones, who has been overseeing the Tuesday dig, "law enforcement personnel are still excavating the first site and it is too early to determine if the site contains human remains." Excavation on that site will continue throughout the afternoon and it is anticipated that the first site will be completed tomorrow.

The Inyo County Sheriff's Office is using portable forensic laser and ALS (alternate light source) technology to view the interior of suspected sites. "Our investigators have been well trained in how to use lasers and ALS at remote desert sites," Sheriff Lutze said. "We will use it to search inside every suspected grave we excavate at Barker Ranch."

The laser and ALS were brought to Barker Ranch by investigators from the Utah Attorney General's Office Cold Case Unit. AG investigators have successfully used lasers to find human remains at remote Utah crime scenes. This is the first time any law enforcement agency in the country has searched multiple gravesites with laser and ALS technology.

Forensic investigations are expected to be ongoing through Thursday May 22, with law enforcement personnel staying on site. Access to Barker Ranch is limited to a two-hour window of time per day for the preselected media pool. The Sheriff's Department will not consider requests to extend this pool.

Information updates will be posted daily at [www.inyocounty.us](http://www.inyocounty.us).

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