



Office of the Governor  
Arnold Schwarzenegger

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Department of Fish and Game Helicopter Crash**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today issued the following statement after a helicopter carrying three California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) biologists and a contract pilot crashed. All four people aboard are presumed dead:

“This is a devastating tragedy, and Maria and I join all Californians in expressing our shock and sadness. Tonight, we send our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of the victims. Our hearts are with them during this difficult time.”

Aerial surveillance of the crash site is currently being conducted. The helicopter went down in a remote part of Madera County, called Redinger Lake, near the Fresno County line in the Sierra National Forest. The crew was performing a routine aerial survey of deer populations when the crash occurred.

DFG is responding to the scene, along with U.S. Forest Service officials, the Madera County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Aviation Administration. An investigation is under way and no cause for the crash has been determined. DFG has grounded all helicopter surveys and captures until further notice.

**Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**

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