

CHP helicopter reunites family separated hiking near Truckee

By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee

A CHP helicopter crew made quick work in finding a lost grandmother in the woods of Placer County on Tuesday.

Dorothy Klishevich and her two grandsons, ages 12 and 13 years old, went hiking Tuesday in Lake Valley, about 20 miles west of Truckee. She parked her pickup at the trailhead and the three began their hike through the mountainous area of small lakes, granite boulders and trees.

The boys got out ahead of Klishevich, eventually becoming separated from their grandmother, according to a California Highway Patrol press release. The woman used her cell phone to call 911 to report she was lost and could not find the children, the CHP said.

The Placer County Sheriff's Department at 4:12pm requested help from the CHP helicopter crew. Pilot Mark Uhlenburg and flight officer-paramedic David White took off from the Auburn Airport and arrived at Lake Valley in 25 minutes.

The officers used the helicopter's loudspeaker to call for the grandmother, instructing her to call 911. Klishevich heard their request and called 911 again.

With the help of a Placer County sheriff's dispatcher, the helicopter crew found her next to a small lake. The helicopter landed on a granite slab and hiked a quarter mile to Klishevich.

She and a dog named Pluto that she had brought with her on the eventful hike were airlifted to a landing area on the west

side of the Lake Valley Reservoir. She was turned over there to Placer County sheriff's Sgt. Bill Walton.

The helicopter crew learned that the boys had found their way back to their grandmother's pickup and were waiting for her to return. The group was reunited and went on their way, according to the CHP.