



## ***Public Information Release***

September 14, 2015

Lieutenant Steve Brooks, Public Information Officer

### **Valley Fire claims first victim:**

On September 12, 2015 at approximately 1:22 pm, the Lake County Sheriff's Office Central Dispatch received the first report of a wildfire (Valley Fire) which started in the area of Cobb Mountain. At approximately 1:50 pm, Cal Fire requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office to start emergency evacuations of the area. At approximately 1:51 pm, Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area and started conducting evacuations. At this time, the Sheriff's Dispatch Center started to become flooded with calls reporting the fire, and citizens asking for assistance with evacuations. Those calls also included family members who were requesting law enforcement to check on relatives believed to be in the fire area.

Both Fire and Law Enforcement first responders reported to numerous requests for evacuation assistance in the Cobb and Loch Lomond areas. Hundreds of homes were evacuated during the first few hours. A phone call for a request to assist an elderly, disabled female at a residence on Hot Springs Road came in to the Dispatch Center at 7:12 PM on Saturday evening. At 7:29 PM, Officers and Deputies responded to the area, but were unable to reach the subdivision as it had already been engulfed by flames.

The resident was apparently unable to self-evacuate and responders were unable to make it to her home before the fire engulfed the structure. After the fire subsided enough for crews to respond, personnel arrived at the burned down residence on Hot Springs Road to find the remains of a deceased person.

Identification of the decedent is being withheld until positive identification and next of kin notification can be made.

The Sheriff's Office and all first responders express their condolences to those who have been affected by this disaster. We are hopeful that the fire does not claim any more lives.