



**SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH**

**For Immediate Release- Media**

**Office of the Sheriff**

55 West Younger Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95110

Sergeant Reginald Cooks  
[reginald.cooks@shf.sccgov.org](mailto:reginald.cooks@shf.sccgov.org)

Deputy Michael Low  
[michael.low@shf.sccgov.org](mailto:michael.low@shf.sccgov.org)

408-808-4905

@SCCoSheriff

---

**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** Deputy Bitten by Rattlesnake

**LOCATION:** San Antonio Valley Road @ Mt. Hamilton, Unincorporated Morgan Hill, CA

**CASE NUMBER:** 19-157-0045E

**DETAILS:**

Today at approximately 4:05am, deputies assigned to our Marijuana Eradication Team (MET) were conducting a MET operation in a rural area of San Antonio Valley Road, east of Mount Hamilton in Unincorporated Morgan Hill.

At approximately 1:00pm, one of the deputies was bitten on his leg by a rattlesnake while hiking. CALSTAR Air Ambulance was dispatched due to the terrain and location of the call. Despite being bit, the deputy and his team hiked about one mile back to their vehicle before driving to the helicopter landing zone.

At approximately 1:49pm, CALSTAR arrived on scene and airlifted the deputy via helicopter to a local hospital. The deputy is in stable condition and is being treated by medical staff. The MET team was initially scouting the area for possible marijuana grows and found infrastructures of a recently used grow. They located a large amount of trash, camping supplies, hundreds of yards of irrigation pipe and large areas of trees and brush that were cut down and removed to make space for the garden.

“This incident reminds us of the inherent dangers that deputies face each and every day trying to keep the public safe. Illegal marijuana grows and drug manufacturers create an immense danger to not only law enforcement, but the community as a whole. We are wishing our deputy a speedy recovery.” said Sheriff Laurie Smith.

As a safety reminder to all, rattlesnakes are known to be out more frequently during hot summer days. Be cautious and aware of where you are stepping during hikes and wear protective clothing.

**Prepared By: Deputy Michael Low**  
**Approved By: Sheriff Laurie Smith**

**Date / Time Prepared: 06/06/19 @1530**  
**Date / Time Approved: 06/06/19 @1615**