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***Welcome to SAREX 2009***  
***Hosted By Merced County Sheriff, Mariposa County Sheriff and Yosemite National Park – at Henderson Park, Snelling, Merced County***

On behalf of the California Emergency Management Agency - Law Enforcement Branch, I would like to welcome you to SAREX 2009, presented by three fine agencies: the Merced County Sheriff's Office, the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Yosemite National Park. It has been a distinct honor and a pleasure to work side by side with the extremely proficient staff of these agencies to put this outstanding event on for you. I'm sure that you will clearly recognize the extensive efforts and personal dedication put forth by these professional groups for the benefit of search and rescue personnel statewide. To this we owe thanks to Yosemite's Chief Ranger Steve Shackelton, Mariposa County Sheriff Brian Muller, and Merced County Sheriff Mark Pazin, as well as the entire staff of their fine agencies.

SAREX 2009 provides a wide spectrum of SAR courses to enhance your knowledge and skills as a SAR professional. SAREX 2009 is designed to encompass all aspects of SAR to help us prepare for effective and efficient responses to California's wilderness SAR problems, urban environment SAR problems as well as disasters. I'm sure you will find this well-rounded event very beneficial to you and to the service you provide. For this we ask that you join us as we commend the dedicated staff of these three agencies for an outstanding job in putting this weekend training event together for all of us.

I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you throughout the years as we face the ever-increasing challenges of SAR in California. Enjoy SAREX 2009!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Scharper".

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