



Arroyo Grande Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact person: Commander John W. Hough

Telephone: 805/473-5126

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MEDICAL INCIDENT

On February 13, 2010, at about 8:40 AM, Senior Officer Mike Smiley of the Arroyo Grande Police Department responded to a radio call regarding an unresponsive male subject in a vehicle at Spencer's Market at 1464 East Grand Avenue. Senior Officer Smiley arrived at the market in less than two minutes and discovered an adult male slumped over the steering wheel of his locked pick-up truck with the engine running and a foot on the brake pedal. The male appeared to be unconscious with severely labored breathing. Emergency medical personnel had not yet arrived at the market.

Senior Officer Smiley is not only a Police Officer, but also a paramedic. Based upon his emergency medical training, Senior Officer Smiley believed that the male subject was in need of immediate medical attention. Senior Officer Smiley yelled and pounded on the driver's window but received no response. As a result, Senior Officer Smiley used a police baton to break the rear window of the pick-up truck. He crawled through the broken window, placed the vehicle into park, turned off the engine and unlocked the vehicle. While crawling through the vehicle window, Senior Officer Smiley sustained a minor laceration to his wrist.

Emergency medical personnel arrived at the market and assisted Senior Officer Smiley in removing the driver from the vehicle. The emergency medical personnel determined that the driver had suffered a life threatening heart condition that could result in death within only a few minutes if not treated. The driver was subsequently transported by ambulance to a local hospital, where he will likely make a full recovery with additional treatment.

Several citizens in the area praised Senior Officer Smiley for his quick recognition of and response to a critical medical emergency that likely made a life-and-death difference for the stricken driver.

Ensuring Quality of Life

200 North Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 • Phone (805) 473-5100 • FAX (805) 473-2198
Website: www.agpd.org