



# SHERIFF

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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May 16, 2025

### **Additional Teams to Assist this Weekend in Search for Missing Hiker**

PORTOLA VALLEY, Calif. – As the search continues for missing hiker, 79-year-old Margaret "Elaine" McKinley, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office is set to deploy additional personnel this weekend in hopes of finding Elaine.

On Saturday and Sunday, through a Mutual Aid Request, nearly 100 specially trained search and rescue volunteers from across the region will canvas the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve and surrounding areas as part of a coordinated search and rescue operation.

This weekend's coordinated search will allow teams to focus on intensively re-searching the area Elaine was reported missing from. The search will focus on covering as much ground as possible, while utilizing drones, ground teams, horses, several specialized K-9 teams and more.

The Sheriff's Office is sharing this information with the community as there will be a significant law enforcement presence in and around the preserve this weekend. The parking lot off of Portola Road will be closed to the public Friday through Sunday afternoon, however, the preserve remains open and can be accessed through entrances off of Skyline Boulevard.

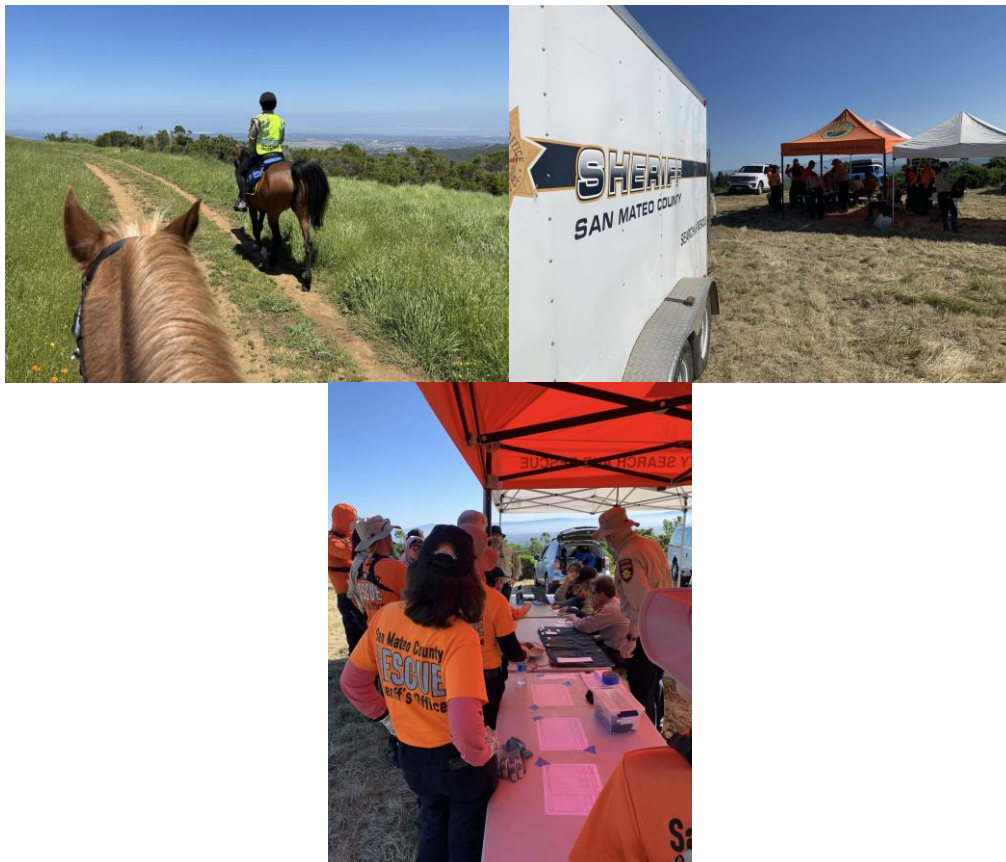
Elaine was first reported missing on May 1, 2025, after hiking along the Lost Trail in the preserve. Since that time, the Sheriff's Office, partner agencies and more than 600 specialized search and rescue volunteers have searched for Elaine. Unfortunately, despite exhaustive efforts and utilizing all available resources, there have been no confirmed sightings of Elaine.

Since entering the Limited Continuous Search phase last week, our commitment to finding Elaine has not wavered. This phase refers to a search operation that continues indefinitely or until the missing person is located, but with resources that are scaled down compared to the initial, more intense phase.

Anyone with possible sightings or information about Elaine's whereabouts is asked to please call 911.



Margaret “Elaine” McKinley, pictured in the clothing she was last seen wearing



Photos from the Limited Continuous Search Phase