

INCIDENT REPORT OF EVENTS ON 12/29/12

My Friends & I arrived at the Sycamore Canyon Reserve staging area at approx. 8:45am Saturday morning for a pre-planned hike starting at the sycamore canyon area out through Santee at Summit Rd.

We arrived at an opening and decided to rest and eat about 1.3 miles into our hike at approx. 10am. After about 10 minutes past we heard a loud plane engine above us which caused all of us to immediately look up. The engine sounded like it revved up, crackled and popped then slowed to an idle speed. The plane (Just beneath the cloud layer overhead) began what appeared to be a slow counterclockwise flat spin. At that time at least one or more of my friends stated that the plane may be in trouble. We watched the plane fall hoping that the pilot would recover. We then lost sight of the plane behind the hill in front of us. A few seconds after we lost sight of the plane we heard and felt a loud thud and knew that the plane had crashed. My friends and I immediately ran in the direction of where we thought the plane had gone down hoping we could help.

I dialed 911 as soon as my phone gained service about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way up the hill in front of us. After contacting the 911 operator I preceded to give her my position and the position of the plane to the best of my knowledge at the time. About $\frac{1}{2}$ way up the hill on our way to the crash site we could smell the aviation fuel in the air. Scott and Kevin were ahead of Jason and myself and were directing the first Sherriff fire rescue helicopter to the crash site. When Jason and myself arrived at the top of the ridge we could then see the wreckage of the plane as well as our two friends Kevin & Scott. They were with two fire rescue members at the plane. I was still in contact with the 911 operator at this time. I told her about an access road off of highway 67 which would be able to give rescue personnel some access to the crash site. Once the second helicopter showed up and we could see emergency personnel driving in through the access road we decided to leave. Kevin and Scott walked back up to the ridge where the first helicopter had landed. We gave a description of what had happened as well as all of our contact information to what appeared to be a co-pilot of the fire rescue helicopter. We then proceeded to exit the area to the west and proceed with our hike.

I have attached images of the area map, crash site, and rest area.

Travis Cooper



Staging Area

Plane crash

Rest Area

Google earth

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Imagery Date: 8/23/2010 32°55'17.25" N 116°58'21.22" W elev: 1036 ft eye alt: 3731 ft



Google earth

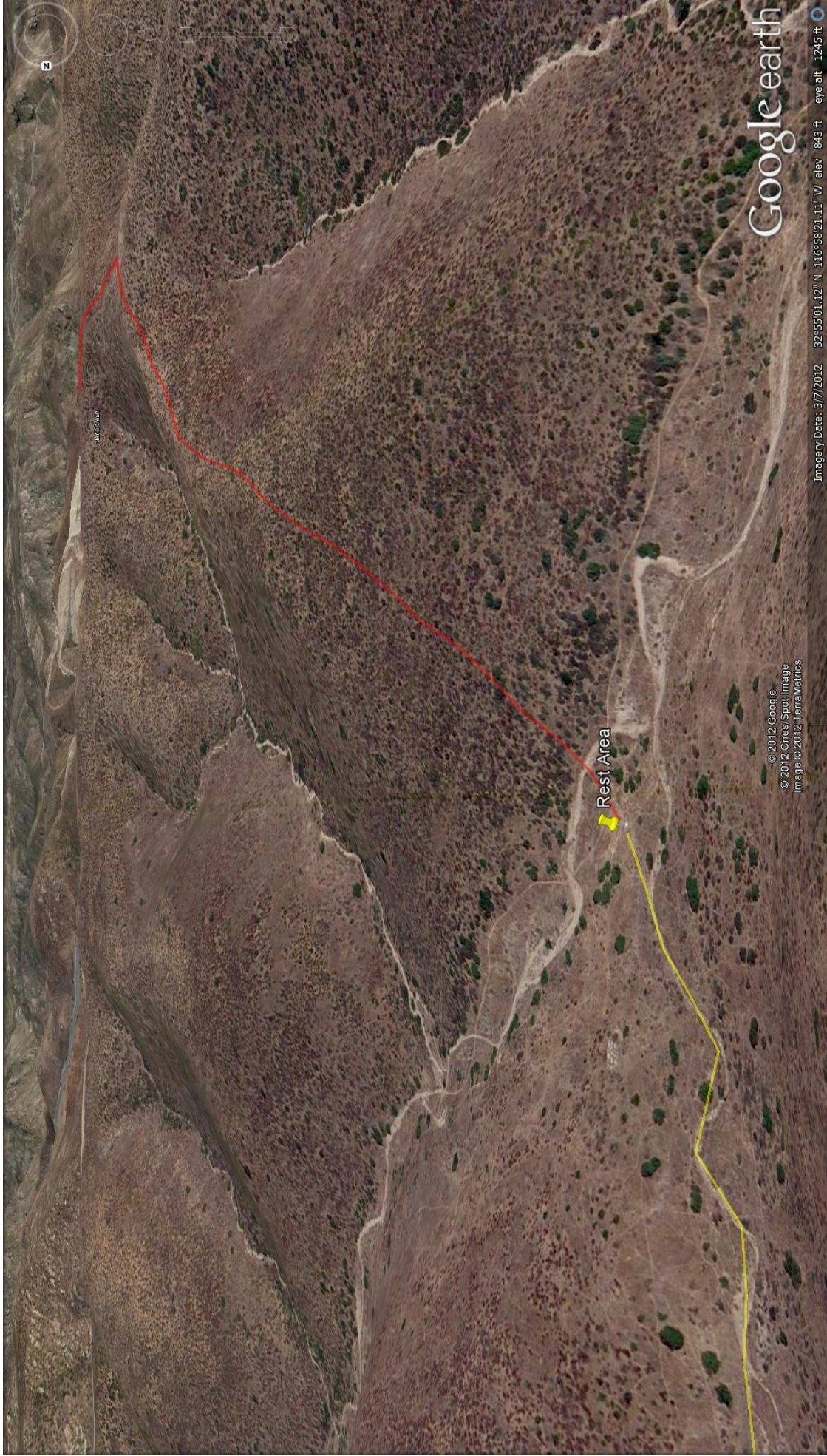
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Imagery Date: 8/23/2010 32°55'20.78" N 116°58'17.55" W elev: 1020 ft eye alt: 4720 ft

Rest Area

Staging Area

Plane crash

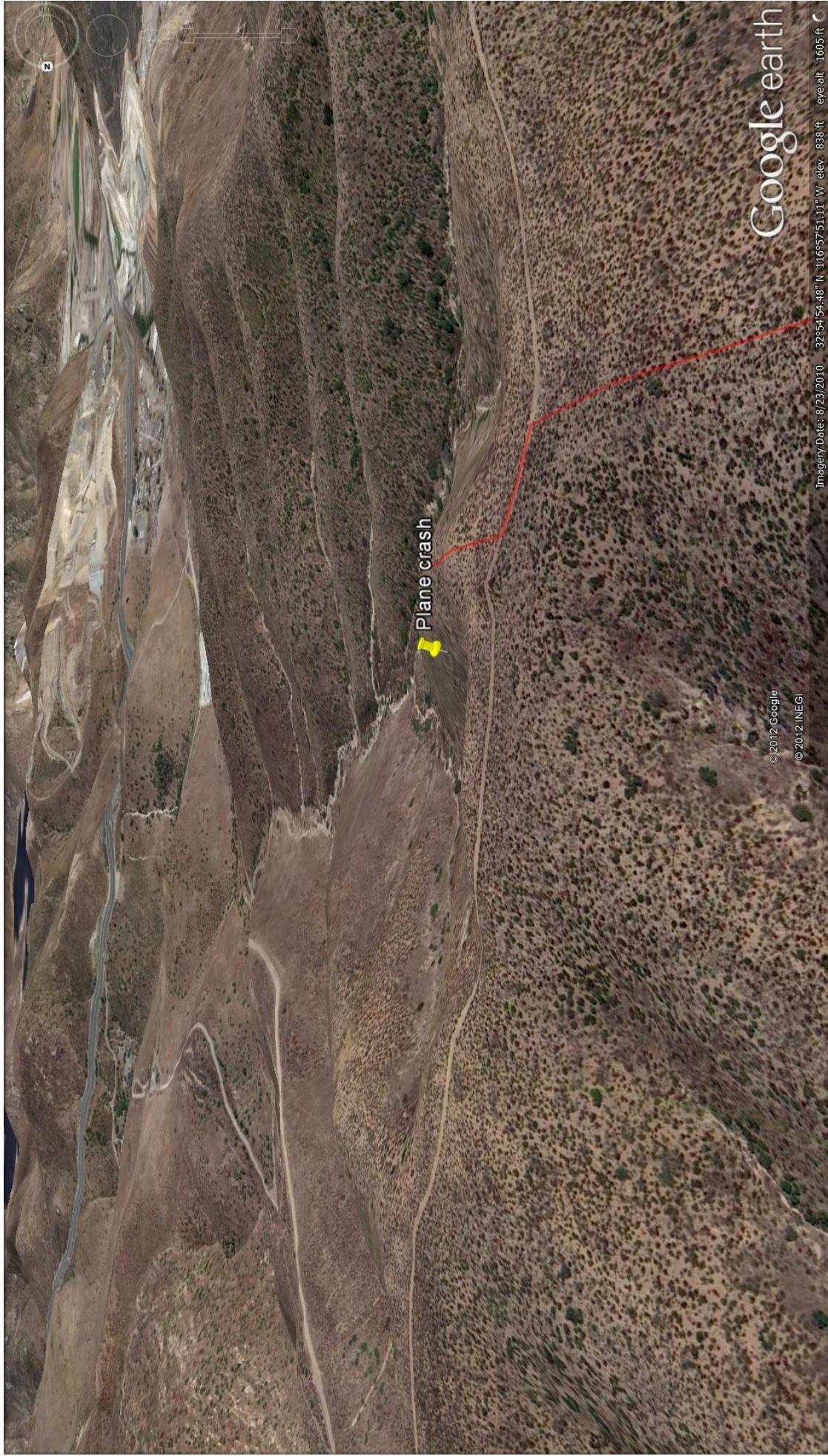


Google earth

Imagery Date: 3/7/2012 32°55'01.12" N 116°58'21.11" W elev 843 ft eye alt 1245 ft

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Image © 2012 TerraMetrics

Rest Area

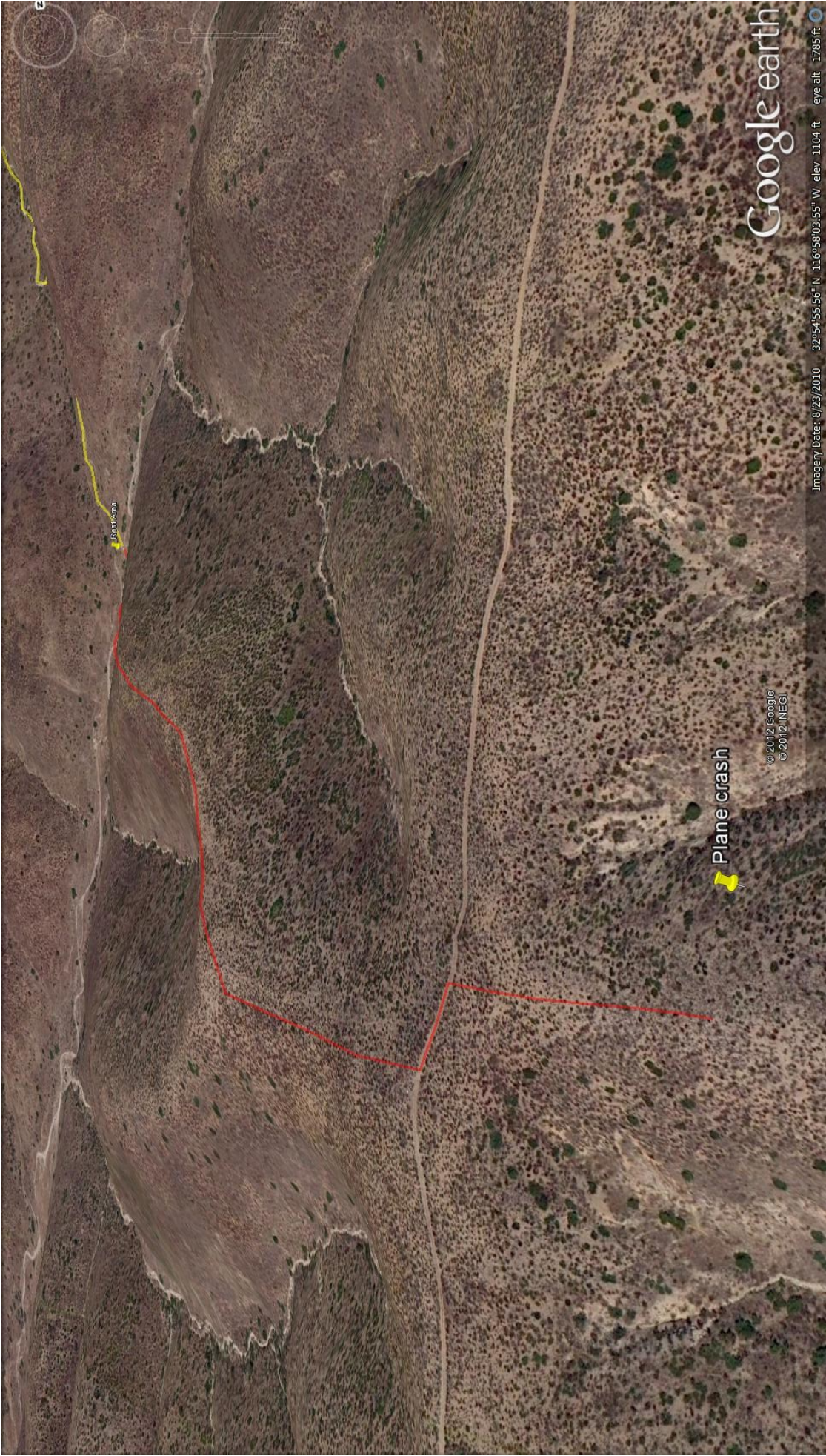


Google earth

Imagery Date: 8/23/2010 32°54'54.48" N 116°57'51.11" W elev. 838 ft eye alt. 1605 ft

Plane crash

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Plane crash

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Imagery Date: 8/23/2010 32°54'55.56" N 116°58'03.55" W elev. 1104 ft eye alt. 1785 ft