

AZCENTRAL.COM | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 | 13A

Man rescued from abandoned Bisbee mine; woman drowns

Wren Smetana Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Cochise County search and rescue teams responded to two separate emergencies in the span of a few hours. One involved a woman dying in a flash flood and another required a man being rescued by helicopter from an abandoned mine.

At about 9:30 p.m. Sept. 12., Cochise County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue received a report of a woman caught in a flash flood in a sinking vehicle, according to a Facebook post.

As deputies arrived, they witnessed a man being swept away by floodwaters in a separate wash. As he was being rescued, others continued searching for the woman, the post said.

Tragically, the woman had been swept away by the flood, was found several feet from the vehicle and was confirmed to be dead, according to the post.

"Please turn around and don't drown. Wait until the water recedes before driving through a flooded wash. The first rescue turned into a recovery - we beg you do

not drive thru a flooded wash. Our deepest condolences to the family and friends. Prayers for all," the search and rescue team said.

The team was dispatched again around 1 a.m. Sept. 13 after receiving reports of man stuck at the bottom of the Lavender Pit, an abandoned open-pit copper mine in Bisbee.

Mine security was contacted but was not able to reach the man due to condemned roads, so the Tucson Department of Public Safety flew a helicopter to assist with the rescue, the Facebook post said.

The helicopter arrived at about 2 a.m., surveyed the area and landed at the pit overlook to pick up search and rescue personnel.

The man was taken on board of the helicopter and was transported to the hospital as he had "sustained some type of injury," the search and rescue team said.

"The subject involved is a 44-year-old male Bisbee Resident who was NOT in a vehicle at the time of the incident, and no vehicle was located on scene," Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels said in a Facebook post.



A Bisbee resident, 44, was rescued from an abandoned mine by a helicopter Sept. 12.

PROVIDED BY COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SEARCH AND RESCUE

2025 man rescued from abandoned AZ mine

Clipped By:
usmra_rob
Nov 4, 2025