



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 3, 2008**

## **Bird Strike Temporarily Grounds Huey Helicopter**

**WHEN:** Approximately 4:30 pm on April 3, 2008

**WHERE:** Near Nevada / California border landing in Sierra County, California

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A Washoe County Sheriff's Office Helicopter suffered a bird strike to one of the main rotors during a training mission with K-9 officers yesterday.

At approximately 4:30 pm, April 3, 2008, during an ascent from an established landing zone, RAVEN (Regional Aviation Enforcement) pilots and flight crew reported hearing a popping noise and whistling sound which was accompanied by a slight vibration. The pilot at the controls completed a precautionary landing without incident.

Initial inspection of the HH-50 Huey Helicopters aircraft instruments proved normal. Once the aircraft was completely shut down, examination of the main rotor blade showed significant damage presumably caused by a bird and rendered the aircraft in operable.

The accident was reported as mandated by federal regulations to the NTSB. No injuries were reported by flight crew or participating officers.

The aircraft will be transported back to its hangar in Stead where it will be inspected and repaired. The unit will be mission ready and available for tactical and fire suppression assignments as soon as replacement rotors are installed.