

Copter Hunt Called Off Second Time

Search for a downed Coast Guard helicopter with at least three men aboard in rough and rugged terrain east of Trinidad was temporarily suspended at 12:15 p.m. today for the second time due to high personal hazards to the search party from bad weather.

A detachment of Coast Guardsmen and 18 sheriff's men were combing the wilderness area since daylight after being forced off the search at nine o'clock last night.

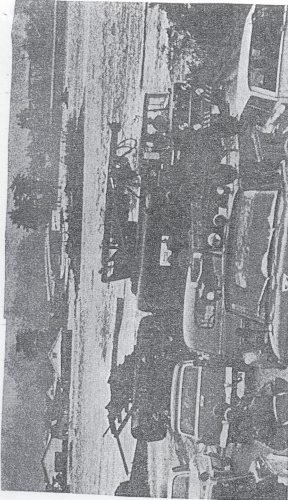
The aircraft, a new Sikorsky turbo-jet, was wrecked during the height of an intense storm in the darkness of Tuesday night after engaging in rescue work in the lower Eel River region.

Coast Guard headquarters in San Francisco, released the names of the confirmed three-man crew of the helicopter at 9 a.m. yesterday. They are pilot Lt. Donald L. Prince, of San Mateo; co-pilot Sub. Lt. Allen L. Alltree, Royal Canadian Navy; and AEG James A. Ninninger Jr., 401 Chestnut Ave., South San Francisco.

Lt. W. Davis, of the Coast Guard, said last night that a Coast Guard pilot spotted the wrecked helicopter. It was reported broken in two pieces with one section in a "vertical" position against a tree.

The location, according to the pilot, was about 200 yards off a road two air miles east of Patrick's Point.

Davis did not say whether the pilot was able to see any sign of life in or near the wreckage.



Flood-wrought devastation is all around as stranded residents of Metropolitan mingle with repair and rescue crews. Note the log jam and houses over what was formerly Highway 101. The bridge south of Rio Dell with one span gone can be seen in the background.