

URGENT OFFICIAL NOTICE

Search and rescue after flash flood in Macho de Monte Canyon, Tierras Altas

When	2026-09-30
Where	Cañón de Macho de Monte, Cuesta de Piedra, Tierras Altas, Chiriqui
Source	sinaprocedig
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Summary

A sudden river rise during a mountain rope-rescue course in Macho de Monte Canyon, Cuesta de Piedra, Tierras Altas, left 2 people missing and about 11 still inside the canyon on 30 September. Search and rescue operations continue; river levels in the highlands are dangerous.

Full text (English)

PRELIMINARY SITUATION REPORT. We hereby report that in the afternoon an emergency situation occurred in the Macho de Monte Canyon, Cuesta de Piedra corregimiento, Tierras Altas district, Chiriqui province, during a climbing practice that is part of the Mountain Rope Rescue Operations and Techniques Course. There were 31 participants and 7 instructors, 38 people in total. For such exercises, as a preventive measure, watch points are placed at strategic locations to constantly monitor river levels and flow behaviour. It is important to note that during the activity an alert was issued due to rising water levels and the risk of a possible flood surge. According to the testimony of one rescued instructor, the people inside the canyon did not heed the warning in time. As a result of the surge, an emergency scenario continues, with 2 people reported missing and approximately 11 people remaining inside the canyon; search, rescue and extraction manoeuvres remain active under appropriate safety conditions. Further information will be released as the operation develops. Panama, 30 September 2026.

Original (es)

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