



Carteret County Sheriff's Office

Captain Jason A. Wank, Chief Detective
304 Craven Street * Beaufort, NC 28516
(252) 504-4800



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NEWS RELEASE

Three kids rescued from Croatan after wandering off

Most of you have already reported on the three children, ages 10, 13, and 14, who were rescued from a wooded area in the Croatan National Forest off of Nine Foot Road and Tom Mann Rd in Newport. The children entered the woods approximately 11:00 am and became lost several hours later. The 14 year old child called 911 from his cell phone at 1:44pm and reported that he and the other two entered the woods near the Little Doo Mud Bog and became lost.



The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the citizens who live in the area for coming out on foot and ATV's to assist Sheriff Deputies in the search. Additional agencies that assisted in the search and recovery include the US Dept. of Forestry, Newport Fire & Rescue, Carteret County Emergency Management, Carteret County Fire Marshalls office, Carteret County Communications Center, and K-9 "Cooper" from the Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association who now resides in Craven County.

All three boys remained on the phone with Carteret County 911 communications and were eventually spotted atop of a deer stand near a clearing in the woods by Timothy Brothers, owner and operator of Crystal Coast Helicopters who was also called in to assist until USMC's Pedro helicopter arrived on scene.

USMC Marine Transport Squadron 1's Major Bryan Donovan, Pedro's commander, led the recovery efforts with Co-Pilot Lt. Col Rex Bartles, Crew Chiefs Lance Corporal Kyle Alessandro and Lance Corporal Anthony Dicola, Petty Officer John Nelson, and rescue swimmer Corporal Chad Dambrogi. After all three children were recovered Pedro landed in a field at the end of Old Dragstrip Rd off Nine Foot Rd in Newport. The children were examined by a waiting ambulance and eventually released to their family who were anxiously waiting at the scene for their safe return.