



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

William F. Honsal, Sheriff

Media Release

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Case Number: 201800060

Subject: Rescue in near Mad River

Sheriff's deputies rescued two hikers lost in the woods near the Mad River Boat Ramp last night.

The Sheriff's Office Communications Center received a call from the two lost hikers around 6:45 p.m. on Jan. 3, 2018. The hikers told dispatch that they were out hiking along the Mad River when they lost visual of the trail due to darkness and fog. The hikers were unable to move further due to thick mud along the riverbank. Dispatchers were able to pinpoint the lost subject's location to an area near the Mad River Boat Ramp.

Deputies arrived on scene and were able to make telephone contact with the hikers. The lost hikers spotted the patrol vehicle's headlights and a deputy's spotlight at the end of School Rd. Deputies made contact with the lost hikers approximately 150 yards north of the boat ramp parking lot. Both hikers were in good health. Deputies escorted the hikers back to their vehicle.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office would like to remind hikers of important safety precautions before hitting the trails:

1. Inform someone of where you are going and when you plan to return.
2. Whenever possible, plan to hike during the day. Set a turnaround time to ensure you finish hiking before the sun goes down.
3. Always carry a flashlight, even on short hikes.
4. Bring extra water and high energy foods.
5. Bring a small first aid kit.
6. Stay on an established trail.
7. Dress properly for a hike and prepare for changes in the weather, bring rain gear or a jacket.
8. If unfamiliar with the area, bring a map.
9. Consider bringing a whistle to help emergency responders find your location in a search and rescue situation.
10. If hiking with a partner or a group, never leave someone behind.