



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT



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****MEDIA RELEASE****

Multi-Agency Response to Injury Traffic Collision in Pudding Creek. 08/22/2026

On August 22, 2026, at approximately 0734 hours, officers, along with Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Ambulance and the Fort Bragg Fire Department, were dispatched to the 1000 block of North Main Street for a reported traffic collision. California State Parks was also requested to respond. The vehicle was reported to have entered the water of Pudding Creek.

Upon arrival, officers located a vehicle sinking in the water approximately 230 feet from the roadway and 50 feet from the shoreline on the east side of the Pudding Creek Bridge.

Prior to Officers arriving, a good Samaritan, Mr. Lloyd Lewis and his canine entered the water after observing the accident. Lewis assisted in removing the driver and the driver's canine from the vehicle.

Officers assisted Mr. Lewis and the two canines out of the water. Officers also assisted the driver who was not standing on top of the roof of his submerging vehicle. The driver was unable to swim due to an injury.

The Fort Bragg Fire Department launched a water rescue operation. Officer Beak assisted the Fire Department with removing the driver to safety. The driver was later transported by ambulance to the Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Emergency Department for medical evaluation and treatment. The driver's canine was transported by an officer to the Mendocino Coast Humane Society, where it was evaluated by veterinary staff. The vehicle was also removed from Pudding Creek.

The Fort Bragg Police Department would like to thank our allied agencies and partners for their assistance during this emergency response, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Parks Rangers, California State Parks Lifeguards, Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Hospital Ambulance, and Caltrans. The Police Department would also like to recognize the courageous actions of Mr. Lewis.

This information is being released by Commander Jonathan McLaughlin . All media inquiries should contact him at jmclaughlin@fortbraggca.gov.

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