

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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SLED PILOTS RESCUE MISSING LEXINGTON COUNTY WOMAN

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's (SLED) Aviation Unit announces the safe and successful rescue of a missing 43-year-old Lexington County woman last night.

The South Carolina Information and Intelligence Center (SCIIC) received a call from The Lexington County Sheriff's Office around 9 o'clock Monday night, requesting assistance.

Special Agents Stan Arrington and Kelvin Crimminger boarded a SLED helicopter and responded to the 800 block of Peachtree Rock Road, in Lexington County.

The victim and several friends gathered in the woods around 5 o'clock Monday night, when the victim wandered away from the crowd. Her friends called 911, when she didn't return.

The two SLED pilots flew over the area and activated the Forward-Looking Infrared Device (FLIR), or Infrared Thermal Imaging Camera and used night-vision goggles during the search.

The SLED pilots noticed at least two flashes, which turned out to be a small fire the victim started with a lighter and piece of paper.

The victim wandered about a mile away from where she was last seen.

The SLED pilots then landed in a nearby, private landing strip to make the rescue.

The pilots helped the victim board the helicopter and flew her to a church parking lot where Lexington County deputies and EMS were waiting to assist.

The victim is said to be doing well after her ordeal and did not suffer any life-threatening injuries.

Agent Crimminger says, “This ending makes the job worth while. We got called out on a cold, dark night. You never know what you’re going to find, or not find. This outcome makes the job worth it.”

Agent Arrington says, “I’m thankful when a search and rescue turns out like this one. I’ve been out on a lot of calls in the past. When we leave the scene of a call, we don’t always know the outcome. It’s a good feeling to have a positive ending. You feel proud.”