



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 15, 2019

Chatham County Police Department's Marine Patrol Rescues Four From Submerged Boat

Chatham County, GA (June 15, 2019) – The Chatham County Police Department's Marine Patrol rescued four people after their boat took on water and submerged just before noon today.

The incident happened in the Intracoastal Waterway at the Wilmington River. Three adults and one 13-year-old were on board the 19-foot Hydrosport when it began taking on water. Chatham County Marine Patrol Units were on scene minutes after the distress call. When they arrived, the boat was on its side and almost completely submerged. Three people were in the water. The driver of the boat was in medical distress and had already been picked up by passing boaters, who took him to a dock where EMS was standing by. He was transported to a local hospital where he was treated and released. Marine Patrol rescued the three passengers without incident, and none required medical attention.

Marine Patrol officers believe everyone may have moved to the back of the boat at one point, causing it to quickly take on water. They say it is also possible that the boat's bilge pump may have malfunctioned, also causing the vessel to rapidly take on water.

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