

Town of Edisto Beach



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2025

Three Rescued After Vessel Overturned Near Otter Island

Edisto Beach, SC — On the night of July 15, a vessel overturned off the coast of Edisto Beach, throwing all three occupants into the water. The group clung to the overturned boat through the night before drifting onto a shallow sandbar south of Otter Island.

One of the occupants retrieved a cell phone from a watertight pouch and called 911 around 6:00 AM on July 16. Edisto Beach Fire Department's Marine 14 was dispatched at approximately 6:30 AM, with Chief Conley and Captain Kizer responding.

Upon arrival, Marine 14 located the overturned vessel on a broad, shallow flat but could only get within 75 yards due to water depth. Captain Kizer waded to the scene and assessed the occupants, finding one unable to walk due to recent surgery. The other two were suffering from mild exposure.

The U.S. Coast Guard arrived via helicopter and deployed a rescue swimmer. Captain Kizer assisted in loading the injured individual into a hoist basket for airlift. The patient was flown to a landing zone at the north end of Edisto Beach and then transported by Colleton County Fire-Rescue Medic 20 to a local hospital.

The two remaining individuals were guided across the sandbar to Marine 14. A coordinated landing zone was managed by Engine 14 personnel and Assistant Chief Sallenger, along with St. Paul's Fire Department.

Colleton County Marine Rescue then met Marine 14 in open water and completed the final transport of the rescued individuals to their vehicle at Bennetts Point.

The Edisto Beach Fire Department extends its thanks to all agencies involved, including the U.S. Coast Guard, Colleton County Fire-Rescue, and St. Paul's Fire Department, for their seamless support and response.

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