

Special Report: I am extremely proud sharing this “MERT Incident Report” I sent to Preston Bowlin. He read it to everyone in the EOC, including Sheriff Billy Woods, very early on September 29th as Hurricane Ian hit southwest Florida.

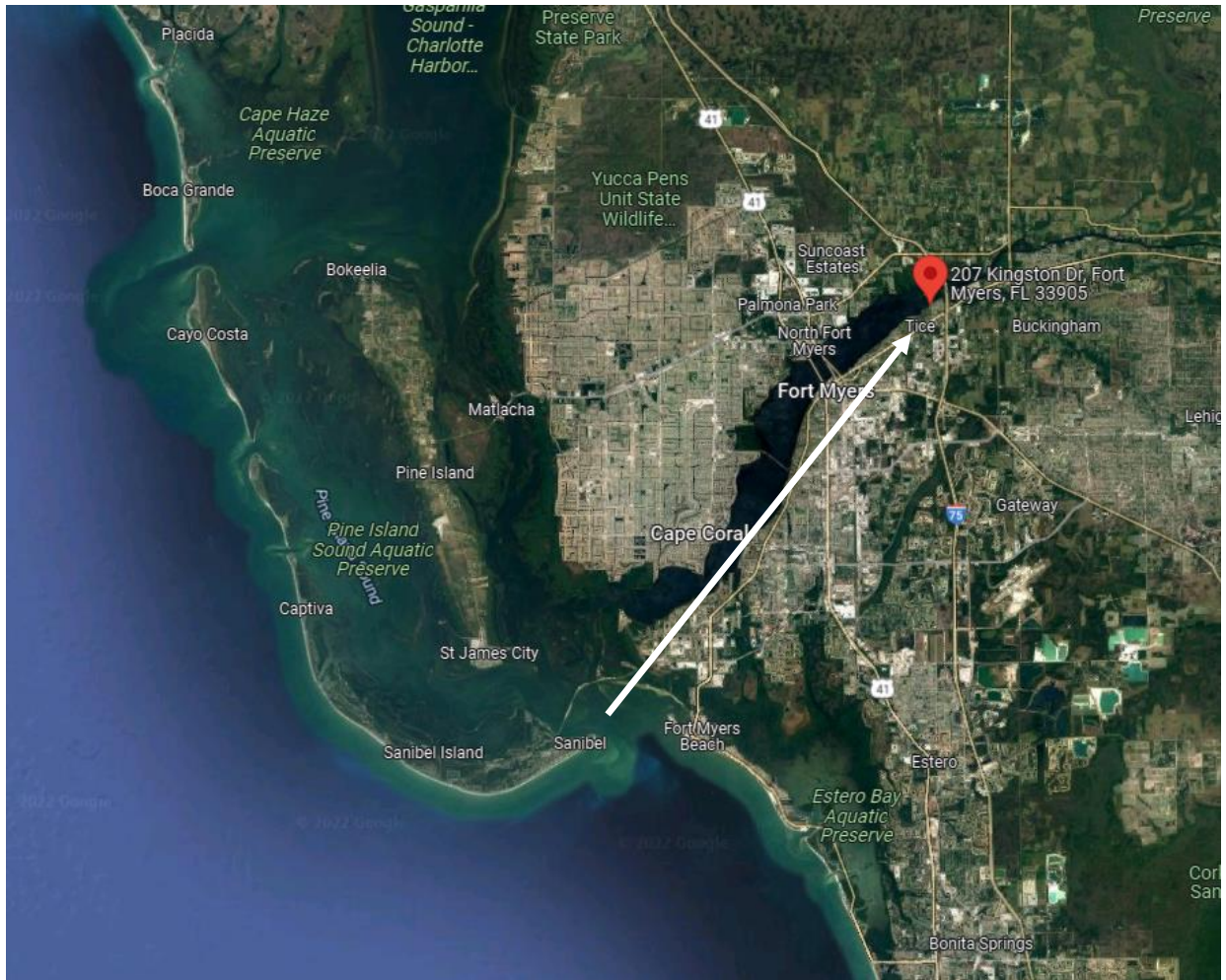
MERT Incident Report

0621 hours 09/29/2022

At 2309 hours L on 9-28-22, MERT Operator N2HAY (Hayden) supporting the Dunnellon EOC Operations Center monitored an emergency request for assistance over the amateur radio bands from KE4CEI. The radio call was from a relative of a 65 y/o female trapped on the roof of her home at 207 Kingston Drive, Ft. Meyers who was unable to contact Lee County 911. He stated all emergency contact telephone resources, including 911, was offline and unreachable to get help for his grandmother.

Location of Person in Distress

Address of location is 22.1 miles NE of Sanibel Island along the Caloosahatchee River.



“When all else fails... Call MERT!”

MERT Incident Report cont.

N2HAY documented the emergency call and then relayed the report to MERT EOC Operator KQ4BRW (Pat) at 2320 hours. Message was documented on ICS-213 General Message form and provided to Rob Morris (Marion County Sheriff Office EM Coordinator) at 2330 hours.

MCSO EM Coordinator Rob telephoned MERT Member N2HAY to confirm information received. After completing the voice call, N2HAY contacted KE4CEI via amateur radio service to relay to the trapped person that help was being organized.

A few minutes later, MCSO Coordinator Rob telephoned N2HAY that contact with Lee County was not successful so a request was made to the South Tampa EM for a SAR team to respond. Because of the dangerous conditions and long distance, ETA was forecasted to be at least one to two hours.

A few minutes later, MCSO Emergency Management Director Preston Bowlin informed MERT EOC Operator KQ4BRW (Pat) that Marion County had sent information via Teletype to Lee County who received the message and was able to respond much faster due to their location. That information was then transmitted from KQ4BRW (Pat) at the MERT EOC room to N2HAY (Hayden) to update the relative to share with the trapped person that help was on the way in just a few minutes.

MERT was informed later that morning the rescue of the 65 y/o female was successful and she was recovering from the ordeal.

End of Summary

Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HRCook". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Harlan Cook
MERT Coordinator
09/29/2022

Please join me in recognizing Hayden and Pat for their teamwork in helping rescue a resident in Ft. Meyers needing immediate SAR support!