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GCFR pulls dog out of a deep hole



Information and Photos

Provided by Gilchrist County Fire Chief James Campbell

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GILCHRIST COUNTY -- On Tuesday (April 4), several inches of rain fell in Gilchrist County.

The Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office dispatch center received reports of ground collapses.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., a Gilchrist County resident contacted the GCSO stating that her dog had fallen into a large ground collapse on her property.

Gilchrist County Fire Rescue (GCFR) responding units noticed several small areas where the ground was beginning to collapse and one large hole with approximately a six-foot diameter hole at the top, tapering as it went down almost 30 feet deep.

A small breed "pug" was able to be heard at the bottom of the hole, but it was not visible.

GCFR contacted the University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service for assistance in the rescue. UF VETS Team Leader John Haven and his team responded and assessed the scene. Fanning Springs Fire Rescue and Trenton Fire Department were

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called for assistance with manpower.



A team member from this group of people went down into the hole and was pulled out once the person grabbed the dog. The rescuer and the dog were pulled from the hole by a harness with ropes and pulleys.

GCFR is grateful for the assistance of the UF VETS team John Haven, Jenny Groover and Brandi Phillips. This rescue would not have been possible without the knowledge, compassion and years of specialized training of this team.

GCFR would like to remind everyone to use extreme caution around ground collapse areas or sinkholes. Do not attempt to rescue pets yourself and stay as far away from the area of ground collapses, because sinkholes can appear suddenly and without warning.

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