



# County of Santa Cruz

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Sheriff-Coroner

701 Ocean Street, Suite 340, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2985 FAX: (831) 454-2353

**Phil Wowak**  
Sheriff-Coroner

## Sheriff's Media Release

Date/Time of Incident/Event: May 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 1800 Hours  
Location of Incident: Big Creek Power Supply Dam - Davenport  
Case Number:  
Type of Incident: Missing Person Locate  
M/P(s): Welch, Nicolas  
Photo(s) Available: Yes  No

### Description of Incident:

On May 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 at approximately 1700 hours, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team located lost hiker, Nicolas Welch near Big Creek Power Supply Dam.

On May 12th 2013, at approximately 0800 hours, the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team began searching the Post-Sempervirens Redwood Forest for Welch, age 27, from Watsonville. Welch had hiked from the 1100 block of Empire Grade yesterday at 1000 hours, with the intent on going 15 miles to Big Creek Road near Davenport. Welch's family became concerned when he did not arrive in the evening, so they notified the Sheriff's Office early Sunday morning.

The Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue deployed ground teams, overhead aerial support, and canine teams in an effort to locate Welch. Search and Rescue members narrowed their search within the search area after a hiker reported a suspicious male. Welch was found a short time later and transported out of the wooded area. Welch was dehydrated and had minor injuries after becoming disoriented. Welch attempted to self-rescue himself during the ordeal, but was unable to do so.

Welch was reunited with his family who had remained in the area throughout the search.

15 Search and Rescue members spent the entire day searching for Welch.

\*Attached photo depicts Welch showing Search Manager his route after he was rescued.

Press Release Prepared by: Steve Carney, Lieutenant  
Press Release Approved by:  
Date/Time of Media Release: 5/12/2013 1830 hours





**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF SEARCH AND RESCUE**

GENERAL DUTY:	1. INCIDENT NAME:	2. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:	3. INCIDENT NUMBER:	4. DATE:	5. TIME:
SEARCH PERSON:	Big Creek	Day	2024-08-14	08:00	15:00
INCIDENT COMMAND					
1. INCIDENT COMMANDER:					
2. INCIDENT COORDINATOR:					
3. INCIDENT CHIEF:					
4. INCIDENT SUPERVISOR:					
5. INCIDENT ASSISTANT:					
6. INCIDENT OFFICER:					
7. INCIDENT OPERATOR:					
8. INCIDENT SUPPORT:					
9. INCIDENT LOG:					
10. INCIDENT STATUS:					
11. INCIDENT NOTES:					
12. INCIDENT COMMENTS:					
13. INCIDENT ACTION PLAN:					
14. INCIDENT RESOURCES:					
15. INCIDENT EQUIPMENT:					
16. INCIDENT VEHICLES:					
17. INCIDENT CONTACTS:					
18. INCIDENT REFERENCES:					
19. INCIDENT APPROVALS:					
20. INCIDENT SIGNATURES:					



