



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

YUMA BORDER PATROL SECTOR HEADQUARTERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 2002

Border Patrol Agents Rescue Children from Desert *Yuma Agents Respond to Sheriff Deputies Request*

Border Patrol Agents from the Yuma Sector rescued three children from the clutches of the scorching desert yesterday afternoon. At 4:30 PM, the Wellton Border Patrol Station received a call from Yuma County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's office requested assistance locating three children reported missing from a rural farmhouse.

The children, two 10-year-old boys and an eight-year-old girl, were last seen at the farmhouse. Border Patrol Agents arrived on the scene at 6 PM, and discovered the footprints of the children during a search of the perimeter. The agents followed the footprints for ½ mile and encountered the little girl suffering from dehydration. The girl advised the agents she was walking across the desert with her brother and another friend when after a few hours, she could not continue. The boys advised her to remain in one place and they would go for water. She waited for a while, then decided to try and follow her own footprints back to the farmhouse.

The girl was treated on the scene for dehydration, and left in the care of a Yuma County Sheriff's Deputy, pending the arrival of an ambulance. The agents then proceeded to follow the footprints of the two boys. At 7:45 PM the agents were able to locate the boys, a few miles ahead of the girl. The boys were also suffering from dehydration and were treated on the scene. The boys were transported to the awaiting deputy, and taken to the ambulance for treatment. The deputies notified the parents and the children were to return home after treatment.

Border Patrol Agents, Border Patrol Air Operations, and Yuma County Sheriff's deputies conducted the successful search for the missing children.

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For further information contact Yuma Border Patrol Public Information Officer Michael McGlasson at (928) 782-9548.