

Safety and Heroism



Rich Becker

**RICH BECKER AND
WILLIAM BOONE**
Wildlife Resources
Commission,
Law Enforcement Division



William Boone

As law enforcement officers for the state's Wildlife Resources Commission, Officers William Boone and Rich Becker are responsible for helping enforce North Carolina's hunting, fishing, trapping and boating laws. While patrolling Lake James on July 23, 2022, Officer Boone became aware of a member of a boating party going into anaphylactic shock from a bee sting. Officer Boone realized that the individual needed help and radioed emergency medical services to meet at the designated access point where he'd directed the boaters. Upon hearing the call, Officer Becker jumped into action. He quickly hopped into his patrol vehicle and met Officer Boone at the access point.

As the boating party arrived to shore, the officers learned that the patient was unconscious. Officer Boone assessed the individual and noted a slow pulse and shallow breathing. Waiting on EMS was no longer an option; Officer Boone used an epinephrine autoinjector, or Epi-pen, as a lifesaving measure just as the patient's breathing stopped. After further observation, the officers determined that one epinephrine dose was insufficient. Officer Becker used his personal medication to administer a second dose to the still-unconscious patient. Finally, the patient's heartbeat and breathing steadied. With the outlook improving, the officers waited for EMS to arrive, at which point the patient received the additional medical attention needed to survive.

Officers William Boone and Rich Becker provide lifesaving care during a crisis. The pair even loaded the patient's boat after EMS arrived to alleviate the stress placed on the rest of the boating party. The State of North Carolina thanks Officers Boone and Becker for their compassion and quick response in the face of an emergency.

