

Police Standoff ends

December 5, 2019



A standoff between multiple law enforcement agencies and a Fort Dick man is over.

Ronald Berry, 56, was apprehended Wednesday after a nearly six-hour standoff with multiple law-enforcement agencies.

According to a press release on the Del Norte County Sheriff's Facebook page, Berry was wanted for a probation violation in Del Norte County and for outstanding warrants in Curry County. He also allegedly recently evaded law enforcement by fleeing during a traffic stop.

When DNSO deputies attempted to make contact with Berry, according to press release, he assaulted them with a Bobcat tractor and then fled into his residence near Moorehead Road in Fort Dick.

The press release credited Crescent City CHP, Del Norte Probation, State Parks, National Parks, Fish & Game and Pelican Bay State Prison Crisis Response Team for all playing active roles in Berry's apprehension. The Fort Dick Fire Department also helped with equipment.

An incident command was established and negotiations began immediately, according to the press release. Berry refused to respond or cooperate in any way. After several hours of failed attempts to communicate with him, tear gas was introduced into the residence. The interior of the residence was then entered and searched but Berry was not initially located. He was believed to have hidden underneath the house by way of an access from inside a bedroom, according to the press release.

Negotiations continued and eventually he was spotted beneath the house. More tear gas was deployed, bean bag rounds were utilized and powdered pepper balls were launched in his direction. After again refusing to surrender, power was turned off to the house and a large hole was cut through the floor in the living room.

With better visibility of him, Berry finally cooperated and was taken into custody. He was medically cleared for booking and housed at the Del Norte County Jail. Bail was withheld and Berry was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, felon in possession of a firearm, receiving known stolen property, obstructing/resisting a public officer, malicious mischief/vandalism and violating probation.

Sheriff Erik Apperson said in the press release, "It's crucial that people choosing to commit crimes in Del Norte County learn that we as law enforcement professionals will not stop pursuing them. We will find them, we will arrest them and we will deliver them to jail. It is equally imperative that they know our community as a whole will not tolerate this behavior. We as a community set the standards that we must live with. Resources from allied agencies, local citizens and their willingness to help when called upon are what brought this stressful and nearly six-hour standoff to a peaceful end. I couldn't be more proud of our DNSO and everyone that gave us a hand today."