

TECO Line Crew Rescues Woman and Children

L.U. 108 (ees, em, es, lctt, mar, mt, rtb, rts, s, spa, t, & u) Tampa, Florida.

Bull Frog Creek is typically small and slow running. It is ideal for children playing on tubes, but recent numerous rains had swollen the creek into a deep, fast moving river.

Lee Service, Kevin Brannon, Ronnie Griffin, and Dave Simmons are a TECO South-Hillsborough line crew. The crew was eating lunch at a park near their work area when a girl approached them yelling that her mother, brother and sister were trapped in the middle of the creek. Crew leader Lee Service sent lineman Kevin Brannon and apprentice lineman Ronnie Griffin to investigate. As they ran towards the water they heard screams.

The mother was in the middle of the creek clinging to a tree, with her children hanging onto her. Linemen Dave Stephens and Lee Service grabbed some ropes and ran to assist. Brothers Stephens and Griffin entered the eight to twelve foot deep water. Brother Service threw a rope to Stevens. Brother Griffin tied the rope under the boy's arms and Brother Service and Brannon pulled him approximately 10 feet to the shore. They rescued the mother and the other child the same way. We are proud of this fast acting line crew.

Doug Bowden, PS