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# 4 Surfers Help Rescue Father, Son From Water Near Wrightsville Beach

Associated Press

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH — Four surfers helped to rescue a 5-year-old boy and his father Sunday night after the boy fell from a pier into the ocean, 35 feet below.

After the boy, Barrett Earney, fell from Johnny Mercer's fishing pier, his father, Charles Earney of Wrightsville Beach, clambered

down the slippery pilings to try to reach him. Neither is a good swimmer.

Earney pulled his son to him and the pair clutched the beams of the pier as breakers pounded over their heads.

Jerry Hendrix, 20, of Wilmington was surfing nearby when he saw the child fall. Hendrix and

Bobby Brooks paddled their surfboards to the father and son and brought the boy to safety.

Then two other surfers, Randall Simpson, 19, and James Fletcher, 21, came to the aid of Charles Earney, an accounting professor at UNC-Wilmington.

The Earneys were treated and released at Cape Fear Memorial Hospital.