



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

MEDIA RELEASE

KCSO/EMS Responds to Vehicle in Fernan Lake

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, at about 3:22PM, the Kootenai County Sheriff's 911 Center received multiple calls after a vehicle crashed into Fernan Lake, just east of Coeur d'Alene.

Members of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office, Kootenai County Fire & Rescue and Kootenai County EMS responded to the 4800 Block of E. Fernan Lake Road. Emergency Public Safety Divers from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Dive Rescue Team were paged to the scene as well and about 27 minutes after the first 911 call, divers pulled the driver from the submerged car.

The driver and only occupant of the car, Pepper L Richardson, 40, of Coeur d'Alene was then turned over to on-scene EMS personnel who initiated lifesaving procedures, established basic vital signs and transported Richardson to Kootenai Health.

At the time of this release, Richardson is in ICU at Kootenai Health and is listed in Critical Condition.

Speed and alcohol appear to be a factor in the crash.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Traffic Team was paged to the scene and are handling the crash investigation.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
By: Sgt. Ward Crawford

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