



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

MEDIA RELEASE UPDATE

On October 3rd at around 5:10 am the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office received a call from a fisherman about a drowning at the east end of Fernan Lake. It was reported two individuals were on a 10' aluminum boat and were transporting gear from the East Fernan Boat Launch to some state land on the south side of the lake. While travelling across the water, the boat capsized and both occupants ended up in the water.

One of the occupants was able to swim to shore however the other occupant had not made it to shore. The KCSO Dive Rescue Team and Kootenai County Fire and Rescue responded to the area and began searching for the missing boater. Spokane County Air 1 was also called to assist in the search.

At this time the second boater is still missing and an active search is underway.

This is still an active investigation and more information, to include the names of the victims will be released when available.

UPDATE:

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Office has identified the two subjects that were on the vessel when it capsized. Jesse A. Bishop a 60 year old male from Airway Heights, Washington and Nathaniel C. Storch a 19 year old male from Spokane Valley, Washington were transporting camping gear from the East Fernan Boat Launch to the south side of the lake. The vessel capsized due to being overloaded and both occupants went into the water. Nathaniel was wearing a life jacket; however Jesse was not wearing a life jacket. Nathaniel was able to swim to shore, but Jesse was last seen in the water.

Currently the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office Sonar Team is conducting an underwater search of the area, however due to the weeds in the area, the search has been slow.

This is still an active investigation and more information will be released when available.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
By: Lt. Ryan Higgins