



MICHAEL F. MOLLENHAUER

LaPorte County Sheriff

JAMES T. SOSINSKI
Chief Deputy

John T. Boyd
Major

809 State Street, Suite 202A
LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone: (219) 326-7700
(219) 879-3530
Fax: (219) 324-6205
Jail: (219) 362-6548
(219) 878-9132

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 25, 2014

CONTACT: Major John Boyd
(219) 326-7700 Ext. 2406
FAX # (219) 325-9477
EMAIL: jboyd@lcsso.in.gov

MISSING 81 YEAR OLD MAN SAFELY LOCATED AFTER NINE HOUR SEARCH

On Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at approximately 9:05 pm, deputies from the La Porte County Sheriff's Office were summoned to a home located in the 4100 East block of County Road 900 North in Galena Township in reference to an 81 year old man who had wandered away from home on foot and could not be located.

Upon arrival deputies learned that the man had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and was clothed only in a t-shirt and underwear. An immediate search of the home and out-buildings was conducted but he could not be found. The Kankakee Volunteer Fire Department was called upon to assist with the search and Deputy Andrew Hahn and his K9 partner Hokie were summoned to the scene from off-duty. In addition, personnel from the Indiana State Police also arrived on scene to assist.

An exhaustive search of the area was conducted with more than thirty (30) emergency services personnel. Thermal imaging units and night vision equipment was also utilized for the missing man. When attempts by Hokie and his handler to track the man were unsuccessful the Lake County Sheriff's Office was called upon and their helicopter was sent to the scene to assist in the search. All of these efforts failed to locate the missing man.

At approximately 12:30 am on June 25 it was decided to scale the search back until daylight. It was decided that at daylight, the Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers and their all-terrain vehicles would assist and the search would be broadened. Several deputies remained on scene however, and continued their search through the night.

Deputies had alerted neighbors about the missing and endangered man and at approximately 5:15 am a neighbor located the him wandering along 900 North near 425 East. Deputies assessed the man and returned him to his home and summoned La Porte County Emergency Medical Services to the scene. The victim had no injuries and required no further medical treatment and was left in the care of his family.

The La Porte County Sheriff's Office is pleased with the outcome of this potentially tragic event and credits several emergency service agencies working cohesively as well as effective communication with neighbors who were willing to become involved and assist.

* COURT OFFICES *

LAPORTE CIRCUIT COURT * LAPORTE, IN 46350 * OFFICE PHONE: (219) 326-6808
SUPERIOR COURT * MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360 * OFFICE PHONE: (219) 872-2161