



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office
News Release



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office

John R. Lovick, Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE All Media 07/12/2009
CONTACT: Rebecca Hover, Public Information Officer
(425) 388-3377 Office
(425) 335-6304 Pager

(Update)
Missing Boater on Lake Stevens

Lake Stevens, WA

Updated 07/12/09 3:45 pm

At 2:58 pm, Sheriff's Divers located the vessel in 50' of water and recovered the victim's body. The victim's body will be released to the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office. Today's search was successful due to the assistance of the Seattle Police Department's Dive Rescue Team. SPD provided towed sonar that was used to locate the vessel.

Submitted by: Lt. Steve DITTOE

For: Ms Rebecca HOVER

Updated 07/12/09 11:00 am

At 6:30 am Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Technical Water Rescue Team assisted by Lake Stevens FD, Lake Stevens PD and Snohomish County Parks, returned to Lake Stevens to resume the search for the missing boater. We are utilizing the Sheriff's Helicopter as well as the Seattle Police Dive Rescue Team who have responded with towed sonar.

Wyatt Park will remain closed to the public during the operation.

Submitted by: Lt. Steve DITTOE

For: Ms Rebecca HOVER

Approximately 9:30 pm Saturday night emergency services workers were dispatched to the south end of Lake Stevens for a sinking boat. Upon arrival rescuers learned that 10 people were onboard the boat when it sank, 9 were now safe onshore and the driver was missing. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office responded assisted by Lake Stevens PD, Lake Stevens FD, Snohomish County Parks, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Technical Water Rescue Team, US Air Force, US Coast Guard and civilian boaters searched the waters of the lake. Witnesses told authorities that the vessel was a white 20 foot ski boat with a wakeboard tower. Passengers onboard tried to get the driver but could not. Divers entered the water based on last known positions in an effort to find the operator who has been described as a local woman 48 years old.

At 11:35 pm the search operations switched from a rescue to a recovery and at 12:30 the search was suspended until Sunday morning at daybreak. The divers will return to continue the search to locate the victim and the vessel. This incident is being investigated by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Marine Services Unit as a missing boater and loss of a vessel and possible fatality boating accident.

No names are being released at this time pending the outcome of search efforts and notifications. There is no information available as to the cause of this incident and no speculation or assumptions will be made reference the use of alcohol/drugs, speed or possible overloading. All possible aspects as to the cause of this incident will be viewed and final determination will be based on the investigative findings. The initial reports indicate lifejackets were no in use at the time.

Note: There are no planned updates on this incident until the vessel and victim are located. This is an ongoing marine investigation.

Submitted by: Lt Rodney ROCHON

For: Ms Rebecca HOVER