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Silverdale man dies in lake incident

Silverdale, Wash. -- A group of volunteer civilian underwater divers, together with U. S. Navy and police divers, were part of a quickly assembled team that worked to locate the body of a 24 year-old Silverdale man who died in the waters of Island Lake Park, earlier this evening.

The body of Kevin M. Davis was found and recovered by divers at 7:46 p.m.

Sheriff's patrol deputies, together with engine units, medic units, and a rescue boat from Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue (CKF&R), responded to Island Lake following a 9-1-1 report of a missing swimmer. The park is located in Central Kitsap, north of Silverdale.

The initial Kitsap County Central Communications radio dispatch about the report of the missing swimmer was broadcast at 5:33 p.m.; the first divers were in the water at 5:53.

A group of four adults reportedly had swum across a portion of Island Lake and were returning to their starting point on the north shore, near the park's community center. The victim's brother, sister-in-law and a family friend accompanied the 24 year-old, who was reported to be a strong swimmer. The group reported that, as they swam, the victim would dive below the surface of the water for a short period of time. It was reported that he was wearing swimming eye goggles and fins. At some point they noticed that the victim had not surfaced per his established routine. They immediately made for shore and contacted 9-1-1.

By happenstance of shift assignment, a sheriff's patrol sergeant and deputy, both holding collateral duty appointments with the sheriff's marine services unit, were able to respond to the lake with a small sheriff's patrol boat.

Also on duty was a sheriff's traffic deputy who holds a collateral duty assignment as a search and rescue coordinator. He quickly coordinated a response by 14 members of the (civilian) Underwater Search & Rescue (USAR) volunteers.

Within 20 minutes of the initial broadcast the sheriff's boat was on scene with USAR divers in the water. Two additional divers from Suquamish Police Department also responded and assisted with one diver participating in the underwater search.

At Island Lake Park community center an incident command post was established. A fire captain with Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue coordinated the myriad of details involved in the search effort.

A team of six Navy divers, from area military commands, arrived at the lake within an hour of the commencement of search operations, embarked on the CKF&R boat and coordinated search area patterns with the USAR divers. Navy divers subsequently located Davis off of the eastern shore of the lake.

Davis' body was transported by boat to the south shore and turned over into the custody of the Kitsap County Coroner's Office. An autopsy is scheduled. The coroner will make a determination as to the cause and manner of death.

The victim's family was notified almost immediately after the body was located and recovered.

The sheriff's office will await the findings of the coroner's office before closing its investigation. At this point, however, investigators are handling this investigation as an accidental death and do not believe that criminal activity was involved.

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