



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF  
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

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## KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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### Boat Fire on Lake Pend Oreille

#### Media release

On 11-27-08 at approximately 1100 hours Deputies from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department and personnel from Timberlake Fire Department, responded to a report of a boat fire on Lake Pend Oreille near Bayview. The initial reports indicated three subjects were in the water yelling for help while the boat was fully engulfed in flames.

Upon arrival, Timberlake Fire personnel responded to put out the fire while Sheriff's Department Dive Team Members were transported by a private boat to the scene. As the incident developed, it was determined that there were three adult male subjects on board the vessel when it caught fire. All three men abandoned the boat while it was burning.

The boat owner, Daniel J. Daffern, 55, from Athol was rescued by a private boat that had responded to the scene. Daffern declined to be transported by medical personnel and was treated and released at the scene.

Passenger Clinton V. Creamer, 55 from Rathdrum was rescued by another private boat that had responded to the scene. Creamer was transported to KMC where he was treated and released.

Passenger Scott A. Wright, 41 from Rathdrum was not recovered.

Mr. Daffern reported that Creamer had a life jacket on, but the rest of the life jackets were in the bow of the boat and inaccessible due to the fire. Therefore, both he and Wright did not have a life jacket. Mr. Daffern also reported the fire started from a portable propane heater.

Kootenai County Sheriff's Department Dive Team members and personnel from TLFD searched the area for Mr. Wright but were not able to locate him. The water temperature was 38 degrees and the maximum depth in that area ranges from 500-700 feet, which is well beyond dive limits for public safety divers.

The incident remains under investigation.

Sheriff Rocky Watson

By: Sgt. Matt Street  
11-27-08  
08-30100

12/4/2008