

Search for Missing Man Scaled Back

August 22, 2012

Effective August 23, 2012, the Hall County Sheriff's Office and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will be reducing the resources devoted to search operation for Jeffrey Nause, who was reported missing from a sailboat on Lake Lanier just after midnight on August 18, 2012.

Surface and sonar searches will continue on Thursday and Friday, but dive operations will be on stand-by pending the results of those searches. Hall County divers will be in the area conducting training and certification updates for the next two days; in the event that the surface searches produce a target of interest, they will be available to investigate further. Dive operations will be suspended for the weekend due to heavy boat traffic, but surface / sonar searches will continue through Sunday. Continuation of the operation will be reassessed prior to Monday.

In addition to HCSO divers, the search has utilized sonar equipment, cadaver dogs, and aviation assets. The search area covered in excess of 20 square acres, with depths ranging from 70 - 130 feet and water temperatures of 42 degrees at depth. Heavy underwater timber in some areas also complicated the search effort. Compounding the physical difficulties of the search are the facts that the incident occurred during the hours of darkness, the vessel was moving at the time, and there was no GPS equipment on board to mark an exact location.

Agencies involved in the search include the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (law enforcement and aviation divisions), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 29, Hall County Fire Services, Dawson County EMS (cadaver dogs), and Forsyth County Fire Services.

The incident remains under investigation by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Hall County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigation Division.