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Child pronounced dead following lake incident

South Kitsap, Wash. -- A six year-old boy was pronounced dead at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma, earlier this afternoon, following an apparent drowning at Horseshoe Lake in South Kitsap.

The child's father called Kitsap County Central Communications (9-1-1) at 2:21 p.m., reporting that his young son was missing and was last seen in the lake. The father added that family members had been searching for approximately 10 minutes prior to calling 9-1-1.

Sheriff's patrol deputies responded to the lake, located just north of the Pierce County line, with the first sheriff's patrol unit arriving on-scene at 2:32 p.m. The deputy found that the child had been located underwater, unconscious, and was not breathing. The boy had been pulled from the lake and others on the lake shore beach were administering first aid. The deputy reported to 9-1-1 dispatchers that the situation was now an apparent drowning incident and immediately requested that medic units respond. The deputy, together with a 44 year-old woman, began administering resuscitative efforts on the child.

Aid and medic units from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue arrived on-scene at 2:44 p.m. Paramedics and emergency medical technicians took over first aid efforts and prepared the child for transport to the hospital. The transport medic unit departed from the lake, en route to Tacoma, at 2:53 p.m.

The young boy was pronounced dead at the hospital at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives responded to the scene and have initiated an investigation into the child's death. Confirmation of the child's identity and determination as to the cause and manner of death will be made by the Pierce County Medical Examiner.

The sheriff's office will await the findings of the medical examiner as part of the investigative process. At this point, however, sheriff's detectives are handling this incident as an accidental death and do not believe that criminal actions were involved.

Persons with information about this incident are asked to contact Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619.

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