



Richard C. Scholl
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- PRESS RELEASE -

Ralph Obenberger
Undersheriff

Date: December 11, 2009
RE: Missing Person: Jay Lafontaine
From: Jennifer Hansen

On December 4, 2009 Mr. Jay Lafontaine from Pleasanton, CA, was reported overdue from a camping trip in which he was to visit both Bodie and Death Valley. He was expected to return home on December 2. On November 27, he called his wife stating he was driving to Bodie where he would spend the night and then continue on to Death Valley. This was the last contact the family had with him. Mono County Sheriff's Department was contacted by the Pleasanton Police Department to be on the lookout for him. In the initial search, Mono County Sheriff's Deputies searched the area by vehicle and did not locate him.

On December 10, 2009, the Mono County Sheriff's Department, with the assistance of CHP and their helicopter, continued their search of the area around Bodie and found the black Jeep Wrangler of Mr. Jay Lafontaine on the U.S. Forest Service Road #169 which was stuck in the snow. The Jeep was not occupied by Mr. Lafontaine initiating a search and rescue to locate him. Mono County Sheriff's Deputies, with the assistance of Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue team members and Mineral County, NV, Search and Rescue team members, deployed snowmobiles to search the area around where the Jeep was located.

Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue team members found Mr. Lafontaine deceased approximately 2.5 miles from his vehicle on U.S. Forest Service Road #169. Mr. Lafontaine was the apparent victim of hypothermia. The exact cause of death is still under investigation.

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18-years-old) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Ralph Obenberger at (760) 932-7549.