

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 11, 3017

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On Wednesday, May 10, 2017 the Eau Claire Police Department requested assistance from members of the Rapid Response Search and Rescue team based in Wisconsin Rapids as part of the on-going search for missing person Derek J. Helgeson. These efforts were once again centered around the area where Helgeson's vehicle had been located earlier in the case. At approximately 1130 hours, Helgeson's body was located in a densely wooded area south of County Highway B in the Town of Drammen.

Detectives from the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office and the Eau Claire Police Department responded to the scene. They were assisted by Mondovi Fire and members of the Eau Claire County Medical Examiner's Office.

Mr. Helgeson's disappearance was being investigated as "suspicious" because it was uncharacteristic of him to leave abruptly without notifying his family and the fact his vehicle was located in a remote area of Eau Claire County. The Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office and the Eau Claire Police Department conducted an extensive investigation. The investigation consisted of numerous interviews, examination of digital evidence, examination of forensic evidence, and review of surveillance footage. The investigation has determined Helgeson's death is not suspicious and the public is not in danger.

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Helgeson family. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the friends and family of Derek Helgeson and the community members who assisted in this matter.