

MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



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News Release

[Stephen Beecher](#), Chief of Police

[Capt. Michael T. Spitzer](#), Operations Commander

[Lt. Craig Austenberg](#), Support Services Division

[Lt. Philip J. Lucivero](#), Patrol Division

[Lt. Michael Cordileone](#), Communications & Records Division

[Lt. Luis Sanchez](#), Investigations Division

[Cpl. Marianne Wurtemberg](#), Public Information Officer

[Sgt. Carl Mase](#), Alternate PIO

Approval:

058

The following has been authorized for immediate release to the public. Any requests for additional information should be made to the Public Information Officer or a Staff Officer.

Members of the news media are asked to respect the privacy of crime victims.

*** See narratives for further information ***

Key: (A) Arrested (V) Victim (W) Witness (O) Other (D) Driver (JM) Juvenile Male (JF) Juvenile Female (ROR) Released on Own Recognizance (ROB) Released on Bail (RTP) Released to Parent (HRMC) Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (SCH) St. Clare's Hosp. (MMC) Morristown Medical Center (MCCF) Morris Co. Correctional Facility (MCJDC) Morris Co. Juv. Detention Center

Incident/Event:	Falls/ Bodily Injury
Date:	December 7, 2017
Location:	Saunders Lane Budd Lake, NJ
Investigated by:	Officer Christopher Saunders, Mt. Olive Twp. Investigations Division
Involved:	Male Victim, 56 YO, Budd Lake, NJ

On December 7, 2017 at 5:55 pm, Officers responded to a residence on Saunders Lane for the report of a 56 year old missing male. When Officers arrived on scene, they were advised by a family member that the male had gone into the woods behind the residence at approximately 12:00 pm to set up a tree stand. The family member stated that the male had not been heard from since that time. Multiple calls to his cell phone had gone unanswered. The Morris County Sherriff's Office K-9 was notified to respond and assist in locating the man. Morris County K-9 Officer Van Valen and two members of the Morris County SERT Team arrived to assist in the search. As Officers began to search the wooded area, a faint yell for help was heard. Officer Saunders and Sheriff Officer Van Valen were able to locate the victim,. He was found lying at the base of a tree after an apparent fall. The fall height was measured to be in excess of 18 feet. The male was conscious and alert, but had sustained serious injuries.

The Budd Lake Fire Department and the Budd Lake Rescue Squad responded to the location. The Budd Lake Fire Department was able to extricate the male from the woods with the help of the police. The density of the wooded area made it necessary for first responders to walk the victim out of the

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woods on a Reeves Stretcher. The subject had been located approximately 300 yards into the wooded area off of Saunders Lane.

The Budd Lake Rescue Squad rendered first aid to the victim, which was taken over by St. Clare's Hospital Paramedics. The victim was airlifted by Atlantic Air One Helicopter to Morristown Medical Center, for treatment of his injuries. The victim remains in Morristown Medical Center under evaluation.

Chief Stephen Beecher said *"This is the second time since November 11th we have needed the assistance of our first responder and law enforcement partners in locating an endangered subject. Thankfully, in both circumstances we were in time to rescue and get them the medical assistance necessary."*

Morris County Sheriff James M. Gannon stated *"We wanted to be of support by offering human resources, canine olfactory search capabilities (tracking and air-scenting), and equipment (including night vision scopes and thermal imaging cameras, along with rescue equipment). We similarly conducted a team search alongside the Mount Olive Township Police Department, the Budd Lake and Flanders Fire Departments, the Budd Lake First Aid Squad, and the Morris County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) just under a month ago, also with lifesaving results. We are currently focusing even greater efforts at honing our search and rescue capabilities at the Sheriff's Office to be of better service to each of the municipalities."*

All parties listed above are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.