



# KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF

SHERIFF ROCKY WATSON  
UNDERSHERIFF TRAVIS CHANEY

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## MEDIA RELEASE

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at approximately 12:25 p.m., members from the Kootenai County Recreation Safety Section, the Kootenai County Dive Rescue Team and Kootenai County Fire and Rescue responded to the east end of Fernan Lake for a report of a boat accident. It was reported that a boat had capsized with one person in the water holding on to the boat. It was also reported the person in the water was not wearing a personal floatation device.

When rescue units arrived on scene they observed a boat that was overturned with a subject hanging on to the boat. The boat was approximately 120 yards from the shoreline. Rescue personnel were able to make contact with the subject in the water, who was identified as Patrick H. Hatfield a 60 year old male from Coeur d'Alene. The subject was pulled from the water and transported to the East Fernan Boat Launch by a Sheriff's Patrol Boat.

Hatfield was treated for non-life threatening injuries at the scene by medical personnel but was not transported to Kootenai Medical Center.

Hatfield told rescue personnel that he was attempting to get his 12 foot flat bottom boat up on plane, when a gust of wind caught the bow of the boat which caused the boat to flip over onto its left side. Hatfield remained with his boat until rescue personnel arrived on scene.

While conducting the investigation, Deputies located a personal floatation device in the boat but because it was overturned Hatfield was unable to gain access to the PFD. Alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department would recommend that anybody recreating on or around the water wear a personal floatation device.

Sheriff Rocky Watson  
By: Sergeant Ryan Higgins  
Case #11-11944