

# Plymouth Volunteer Fire Department

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**Richard G. Metzger, Fire Chief**  
Troy Hass, Asst. Chief

**February 11, 2024**

**REF: Press Statement - Incident 24-021 and 24-022**

1) On February 10, 2024 at approximately 9:18 pm, the Plymouth Fire Department was dispatched for a capsized boat with victims in the water in the area of 4652 London West Road in Plymouth Township. Shelby Fire Department was also dispatched just prior to us and responded. Upon arrival, two victims were found out of the water, with another still in the water at an unknown location. One of the victims was transported to Ohio Health Shelby. Crews on scene then began a search effort for the missing victim. The search area consisted of a nine-acre pond (Mackey's Pond), with extensive bank and water growth, located in a field at the noted location. Throughout the evening additional resources responded from the following agencies:

Willard Fire Dept. Dive Team  
Richland County Sheriff's Office  
Willard Police (drone)  
Mansfield Fire Dept. (drone)  
Shelby Police Dept.

Shelby Fire Department  
Ashland County Sheriff Dive Team  
Bucyrus Fire Dept. (lighting)  
Sandusky Fire Dept. Dive Team  
Ohio State Patrol Aviation Unit

An aggressive search was conducted by placing people "in the water" in both floatation suits as well as with divers, by boat, and with multiple drones being used. Lighting was provided by OSP Aviation Unit and Bucyrus Fire during this event. At about 01:05 am, the search was called off after discussion of all involved and with input from our Medical Director.

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2) On Sunday February 11, 2024 at approximately 08:00 am, our crews returned to the scene to initiate recovery efforts. Recovery efforts included searches of the pond by drone, cadaver dog search, and surface searches by boat. Plymouth Fire was assisted in the recovery by the following agencies:

Willard Fire Dept. Dive Team	Shelby Fire Department
Richland County Sheriff's Office (RCSO)	Ashland County Sheriff Dive Team
Willard Police (drone)	Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
Ohio Search and Rescue Team (OSRT)	Richland County EMA
Richland County Coroners Office	

At approximately 03:10 pm the missing boater was located and recovered by first responders. The deceased was removed from the water and turned over to the Richland County Coroners Office.

The victim's identity will not be released by our department as the investigation of this incident is being conducted by ODNR, RCSO, and the Richland County Coroner's office.

The Plymouth Fire Department would like to express our sincere thanks to all the entities and people that assisted throughout this event. We are fortunate to have so many resources available to assist with events like this. We would also like to thank McDonalds and Wendys of Shelby for their donation of food and drinks, Kurtzman Sanitation, and the numerous people who stopped by and provided us with food and drink.

Our department would like to remind boaters to please use flotation devices while on the water and to take an approved boaters safety course.

Richard G. Metzger, Incident PIO  
Fire Chief/EMS Coordinator