

CLOQUET POLICE DEPARTMENT

Derek W. Randall Chief of Police

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Deceased Individual Found in Encampment Behind 218 Taphouse

CLOQUET, MN - On October 18, 2024, officers from the Cloquet Police Department responded to the discovery of a deceased individual in a tented encampment behind the 218 Taphouse. The incident is currently under investigation pending the determination of the cause of death.

At approximately 9:00 p.m., officers responded to a call reported by an officer's brother. The brother had located a tent, believed to be on City property, behind his home. Officers Sergeant Kaldor and Sergeant Sandstrom entered the wooded area and located an old tent and a newer tent, partially obscured by a camouflage tarp.

Upon inspection, officers discovered a deceased individual, believed to be a male, inside the tent. Based on visual indicators, the individual appeared to have been deceased for a month or longer. Numerous empty liquor bottles were found in and around the tent, suggesting possible alcohol-related circumstances. Initial observations showed significant decay.

The officers notified the Medical Examiner's Office, who responded to the scene. The preliminary investigation did not uncover any firearms, bullet holes, or other apparent indicators of foul play. Although early observations raised concerns about facial trauma, it was later determined that no weapon was present, and the death currently appears to be from natural causes or health complications.

The Medical Examiner's Office has taken possession of the body for further examination and autopsy to confirm identity and cause of death.

Chief of Police Derek Randall stated, "No evidence suggests suspicious circumstances."

Officers and the Medical Examiner have notified the next of kin and identified the man as 64-year-old Timothy Scott Morse, whose last known address is Grand Marias, Minnesota.

On October 29, 2024, the Medical Examiner confirmed that the death did not appear suspicious.

A final report is pending.

The Cloquet Police Department has contracted with a cleanup company, which will remove and clean the area on Wednesday, October 30, 2024.