



OFFICIAL SWORN POLICE REPORT



MDMR Marine Patrol

1141 Bayview Ave Biloxi, MS 39530 (228) 374-5000

Incident#: MP2607-0016

STATION COMPLAINT UCR/Offense Code MISS (MISSING PERSON)			INCIDENT # MP2607-0016	
REPORT TYPE Non Criminal Report	RELATED CAD # 2607-0205	DESCRIPTION ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY		
DOT #	LOCATION OF OFFENSE (HOUSE NO., STREET NAME) NW TIP OF HORN ISLAND OCEAN SPRINGS, MS (0,0)			
Primary Officer Smith, Shay				
HOW RECEIVED Telephone	WHEN REPORTED 07/05/2026 10:05	TIME OF OCCURRENCE 07/05/2026 10:05	STATUS CODE	STATUS DATE

INVOLVED ENTITIES

NAME EDMINSTON JR, BART JOSEPH				DOB [REDACTED]	AGE 21
ADDRESS [REDACTED] OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564			FBI #	IR #	
SEX M	RACE: White, Caucasian ETH:	HGT	WGT 0	HAIR	PHONE
EYES	SID #	DL # [REDACTED]	DL State MS	ALT PHONE	
CLOTHING				Handcuff Double Locked	Prints Taken
Criminal History					
Employer					
UCR				TYPE	RELATED EVENT #
					Count 0
Rap Sheet					

NAME Adkerson, Jerry Ralph				DOB	AGE
ADDRESS [REDACTED] Gautier, MS 39553			FBI #	IR #	
SEX M	RACE: White, Caucasian ETH:	HGT	WGT	HAIR	PHONE
EYES	SID #	DL # [REDACTED]	DL State	ALT PHONE	
CLOTHING				Handcuff Double Locked	Prints Taken
Criminal History					
Employer					
UCR				TYPE	RELATED EVENT #
					Count 0
Rap Sheet					



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INVOLVED VEHICLES

VEH/PLATE # MI1295CB	STATE MS	TYPE Boat	INVOLVEMENT	VIN # TLN23056D020	
YEAR 2020	MAKE TIDECRAFT INC	MODEL Unknown	COLOR BLACK	OWNER	
COMMENTS					
Towed	Towed By		Tow Number	Impounded	Hold
Carrier	Carrier Code		Insured By	Policy Number	

VEH/PLATE # MI4088BU	STATE MS	TYPE Vessel	INVOLVEMENT	VIN # TJZ2C102F900	
YEAR 2000	MAKE TRITON BOATS LI	MODEL Unknown	COLOR WHITE	OWNER	
COMMENTS					
Towed	Towed By		Tow Number	Impounded	Hold
Carrier	Carrier Code		Insured By	Policy Number	

INVOLVED PROPERTY

PROPERTY # PMP2607-0016-1	RECOVERED BY	BRAND / MODEL / SERIAL NUMBER Garmin	QUANTITY 1.0000
TYPE GPS	Status Evidence	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY adm file containing waypoints	PROPERTY VALUE
PROPERTY # PMP2607-0016-2	RECOVERED BY	BRAND / MODEL / SERIAL NUMBER	QUANTITY 1.0000
TYPE GPS	Status Evidence	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY 1 adm file with waypoints, routes, and tracks	PROPERTY VALUE

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NARRATIVES

REPORTING OFFICER Smith, Shay	Unit # 16	SUPERVISOR Freeman, William, Jr.	Unit # 3
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PRIMARY NARRATIVE

On Saturday, July 4, 2026 at 2349 hours, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) Lieutenant Patrick Carron was advised by dispatch of a caller reporting a missing male, Nolan Wells, on Horn Island. The caller told dispatch her 18 year old son rode to Horn Island on a vessel with friends, was last seen around 1500 hours, his phone was in a friend's truck, and all the friends said they had returned from the island. Based on information provided at the time, Carron asked dispatch to forward the reporting party (Christine Wells-Wonsley) to Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) to make an official missing persons report. Shortly thereafter, dispatch advised the reporting party was calling JCSO and that the United States Coast Guard had been notified.

At approximately 0138 hours on July 5, 2026, Carron spoke with Ocean Springs Police Department regarding the complaint and advised that JCSO would be taking lead on the case. Carron also spoke with JCSO Lieutenant Odom, the shift supervisor, who said they had taken the initial report. He said his deputies had spoke with several friends that traveled to the island on the vessel with Nolan and that when they left he was in the company of an unknown female and that he chose to remain at the island. Based on the information provided, Odom did not have reason to believe there were any water related exigencies or emergencies and he believed the most likely scenario was Nolan rode in on another vessel but did not have his phone in his possession to make contact with family. No further action was taken by Carron or his shift the morning of July 5, 2026.

At the approximately 1800 hours on the evening of July 5, 2026, Carron reported to the command posted established by JCSO at Lake Mars Pier and assisted with efforts, to include sending a MDMR patrol vessel and crew to the North West tip of Horn Island to conduct sonar surveys of the area. The sonar surveys were inconclusive and terminated due to adverse weather conditions.

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SUPPLEMENTS

REPORTING OFFICER Freeman, William, Jr.	DATE 07/13/2026	TIME 07:38	SUPERVISOR Strickland, Michael	SECURE No	JUVENILE No
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SUPPLEMENTAL/INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE

TYPE: Incident

On July 5, 2026, at approximately 9:00 AM, MDMR Lieutenant Colonel Gex requested drone assistance from MDMR Captain Freeman, as part of the search and rescue for Nolan Wells at Horn Island. MDMR Lieutenant Matt Kasovich transported Freeman, by vessel, to Horn Island. At approximately 10 AM Freeman attempted 3 launches with no success. A software issue was identified and unable to be repaired in the field. At approximately 10:30 AM, Freeman requested Senior Master Sergeant Shay Smith report for duty with additional drones. Freeman and Kasovich picked up Smith and transported him to Horn Island. At approximately 12:40 PM, Smith launched the first drone flight. The launch location was at 30-14.603N and 088-46.427W (PA). The search area was approximately 0.1 square miles and consisted of a parallel search pattern. The second flight launched at 1:22 PM from 30-14.454N and 088-45.966W (PA). This search area was approximately 0.1 square miles and consisted of a parallel search pattern. The second flight ended abruptly due to a battery separation from the drone. The excessive heat caused the lithium-ion batteries to swell. Further flight attempts were cancelled due to excessive heat. Nolan Wells was not located during either flight. See image MP2607-0016 MDMR UAS Flights for a representation of the flight areas in relation to the last known anchor position of the Adkerson vessel.



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REPORTING OFFICER Smith, Shay	DATE 07/13/2026	TIME 10:50	SUPERVISOR	SECURE No	JUVENILE
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SUPPLEMENTAL/INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE

TYPE: Incident

On July 8, 2026, at approximately 1341 hours, Jackson County Captain Kristen Johnson requested GPS file download assistance from MDMR Captain Freeman, as part of the search and rescue for Nolan Wells at Horn Island. Officer Shay M. Smith was assigned to download data contained on vessels MI-1295-CB and MI-4088-BU.

On July 8, 2026, at approximately 1609 hours, MDMR Officer Shay M. Smith meet with Bart Edmiston Jr. located [REDACTED] Ocean Springs, MS 39564. Edmiston provided Smith with a driver's license and boat registration card. Edmiston signed the permission to search form and escorted Smith down the pier. Vessel MI1295CB was in a boat lift on the north side of the residence. The vessel contained a pair of Garmin GPSMAP chart plotters and wired for sonar, waypoint, and chart sharing/syncing. Smith inserted a 32GB card into the unit and followed to prompts to copy data to a memory card. A single ADM file was downloaded and labeled as MI1295CB.ADM.

On July 8, 2026, at approximately 1710 hours, MDMR Officer Shay M. Smith meet with Jerry Adkerson and Jennifer Pyron located at [REDACTED] Biloxi, MS 39532. Adkerson provided Smith with a driver's license and vessel registration. Adkerson signed the permission to search form. Vessel MI4088BU was in the driveway of the residence. The vessel contained a Garmin GPSMAP chart plotter. Smith inserted a 32GB card into the unit and followed to prompts to copy data to a memory card. A single ADM file was downloaded and labeled as MI4088BU.ADM.

On July 9, 2026, at approximately 0900 hours, MDMR Officer Shay M. Smith made a working copy of each of the ADM files. Smith used Garmin Home Port to open the files. Each file contained the following:

1. MI1295CB.ADM - contained waypoints
2. MI4088BU.ADM - contained waypoints, tracks, and routes.

On July 10, 2026, at approximately 0930 hours, MDMR Officer Shay M. Smith used Garmin Home Port to convert the ADM file into a GPX file. The GPX file was ingested into Google Earth to develop PowerPoint slides with the date, times, and routes of vessel MI4088BU displayed over satellite imagery. The following timeline was established:

Date Time Location/Action

7/4/2026 0956 Vessel departs [REDACTED] El Camino Real Rd for Horn Island
 7/4/2026 1114 Vessel arrives West Tip Horn Island
 7/4/2026 1115-1630 GPS dropping points consistent with a stationary position and GPS on
 7/4/2026 1631-1724 Vessel departs West Tip Horn Island. North bound speed between .06 and 4.2 knots for approximately 2.75 miles
 7/4/2026 1725 Vessel regains normal operation. Speed 30-35 knots
 7/4/2026 1744 Vessel arrives at [REDACTED] El Camino Real Rd
 7/4/2026 1752 Vessel departs [REDACTED] El Camino Real Rd and headed East into Fort Bayou
 7/4/2026 1806 Vessel returns to [REDACTED] El Camino Real Rd



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Primary Officer Smith, Shay	(0,0)			
HOW RECEIVED	WHEN REPORTED	TIME OF OCCURRENCE	STATUS CODE	STATUS DATE
Telephone	07/05/2026 10:05	07/05/2026 10:05		

7/4/2026 1836 Vessel departs [REDACTED] El Camino Real Rd, heads southwest to Saint Martin Bayou, turns southeast to Biloxi Bay Bridge, then back north Fort Bayou Boat Launch.

7/4/2026 1919 Vessel arrives Fort Bayou Boat Launch

7/4/2026 1947 Vessel was trailered to [REDACTED] Cardinal Lane

7/4/2026 1959 Last data point record on 7/4/2026

7/5/2026 0932 Powered on -

7/5/2026 0951 Powered on ? vessel moved 52ft

7/5/2026 0953 Powered on

7/5/2026 1027 Powered on

7/5/2026 1650 MDMR Officer Strickland powered on GPS: Photo of screen for search coordinates

7/7/2026 1810 Powered on

7/8/2026 1713 MDMR Officer Smith powered on GPS: Permission to Search, 1 ADM files downloaded

see file MI4088BU GPS Extraction Summary for PDF format



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REPORTING OFFICER Smith, Shay	DATE 07/13/2026	TIME 10:50	SUPERVISOR Strickland, Michael	SECURE No	JUVENILE
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Primary Officer Smith, Shay	(0,0)			
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Telephone	07/05/2026 10:05	07/05/2026 10:05		

7/4/2026 1725 Vessel regains normal operation. Speed 30-35 knots
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See MI4088BU GPS Extraction Summary in files



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Primary Officer Smith, Shay					
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REPORTING OFFICER Strickland, Jacob	DATE 07/13/2026	TIME 11:25	SUPERVISOR Strickland, Michael	SECURE No	JUVENILE
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SUPPLEMENTAL/INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE

TYPE: Incident

On July 5, 2026, at approximately 1155 hours, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Marine Patrol Master Sergeant Jacob Strickland received a call from Captain William Freeman to locate and interview a female subject that was possibly involved with the missing person on Horn Island.

Officer J. Strickland reported to the residence of Laney Naquin, Pascagoula, MS, who was initially reported to be on Horn Island with the group of people associated with Nolan Wells. When interviewed, Naquin stated that she had already spoken with Jackson County Sheriff's Department investigators and stated that she was not on Horn Island but in fact was on Petit Bois Island with a different group of friends. Naquin stated that she knew Wells but had not seen or spoken with him in over a year.

Officer Strickland followed up on some other possible names associated with Wells that may have seen him at Horn Island that day. Jacob Woods of Ocean Springs, MS, was not at home when Strickland checked his residence. Officer Strickland reported to the residence of Drew Johnson, Ocean Springs, MS, no contact was made.

At approximately 1630 hours, Officer Strickland contacted Wyatt Pyron's mother, Jennifer Pyron, who stated that Wyatt had already spoken to the Jackson County Sheriff Department investigators earlier in the day, but would cooperate in any way that they were needed. Officer Strickland was given verbal consent to view the Garmin GPS on Pyron's vessel. Officer Strickland observed the track lines showing Pyron's vessel location on Horn Island to narrow down the search area for Wells. The GPS displayed that the vessel was located near the western tip of Horn Island for the date of July 4, 2026 (30.14.626N/088.46.629 W PA).

Officer Strickland was notified that Jackson County Sheriff's Department was taking lead on the missing person investigation. MDMR officer would be in a supporting role for the remainder of the investigation.



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Primary Officer Smith, Shay				
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REPORTING OFFICER Gex, Bryce	DATE 07/13/2026	TIME 12:58	SUPERVISOR Strickland, Michael	SECURE No	JUVENILE
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SUPPLEMENTAL/INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE

TYPE: Incident

On Sunday, July 5th, 2026, at approximately 0800 hours Lt. Colonel Bryce Gex and Captain Jack Ewing with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources launched patrol vessel Admiral Dewey at Biloxi small craft harbor. Officers aboard the Admiral Dewey traveled to the northwestern tip of Horn Island in search of a reported missing person on the island. It was reported that an 18-year-old black male (Nolan Wells) did not return home from Horn Island the evening prior with the other people aboard the vessel. Wells' last known reported location was the northwest tip of the island. Upon approach of the island, in the channel, a vessel signaled intent to speak with officers Gex and Ewing. Aboard the vessel was Wells' former high school coach (later identified as Les George) and Wells' parents (later identified as Christine and Elmore Wonsley). Officers Gex and Ewing introduced themselves and exchanged phone contact information with George to stay in touch during the search. George explained that they and other private citizens had been on the island on the northwest tip looking for Wells. Gex and Ewing started an initial search of the southwestern shoreline and dunes to rule out any possibilities, Wells ended up there overnight. The search of the southwestern side produced no results. Gex and Ewing began to search by vessel the waters surrounding the northwestern tip looking for any signs of Wells. At approximately 0900 hours Gex called MDMR Captain Will Freeman, Captain, over investigations for drone search capabilities to respond to the island to assist. Observed search efforts in the area were National Park Service, multiple Jackson County vessels, Biloxi Fire service vessel, a Civil Air Patrol plane, and a Jackson County helicopter. Multiple privately owned vessels and their crew assisted in searching for Wells also. Approximately 1230 hours the Admiral Dewey with Gex and Ewing returned to the mainland to refuel. Captain Freeman, Lt. Kasovich and Investigator Shay Smith aboard patrol vessel #8822 stayed near the northwest tip of the island and continued to run drone searches for Wells.



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Primary Officer	(0,0)			
Smith, Shay				
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ASSISTING OFFICERS

OFFICERS	Unit #
Ewing, Jack, Jr.	4
Freeman, William, Jr.	3
Freeman, William, Jr.	3
Gex, Bryce	2
Kasovich, Matthew	9
Kasovich, Matthew	9
Husley, Jack	21
McNair, Andrew	107

CAD NOTES



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2607-0205

07/05/2026 10:05 Call Created

07/05/2026 10:05 ORIGINAL CAD 2607-0196

07/05/2026 10:13 PER MP 9 IF BILOXI FIRE WOULD LIKE TO ASSIT

07/05/2026 10:14 CHARITY AT BPD ASKING IF THEY COULD HELP

07/05/2026 10:18 KEITH OF HARRISON CO, 2 BEACH PATROL UNITS AND 1 MARINE PATROL

07/05/2026 10:34 KEITHS UNITS ARE ON THE WAY

07/05/2026 10:49 MP 3 ADVISING THAT BILOXI FIRE IS AT THEIR LOCATION. MP3 ADVISING THAT THEY CAN LAUNCH AT ANY TIME.

07/05/2026 10:53 BILOXI FIRE RADIO CHECK

07/05/2026 10:58 MP4 SPEAKING WITH PR210 IN REGARDS TO HELO ENROUTE

07/05/2026 12:40 30 14.603 N 088 46.427W STARTING 1ST DRONE START

07/05/2026 13:22 30 14.545 N 088 45.966 W 2ND LOCATION FOR 2ND DRONE

07/05/2026 13:52 MP3 - DONE WITH DRONE FLIGHTS HEADING BACK IN

07/05/2026 14:19 MP21 & 107 = AT THE CHIMENY STACKS HORN ISLAND

07/05/2026 14:46 Call Closed

07/05/2026 17:39 Call Closed

07/08/2026 10:26 CALL HAS BEEN BRIEFLY RE-OPENED TO ALLOW AN ASSIGNMENT CHANGE. MP16 IS BEING ASSIGNED CASE # FOR THIS CALL AND WILL BE PRIMARY.

07/08/2026 10:30 Call Closed

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CAD Call Logs

2607-0196

Time Received 07/04/2026 23:45:14	Situation MISS (MISSING PERSON)	Location Horn Island
Dispatcher Asher, Bri'Ana	How Received Contact	Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0202

Time Received 07/05/2026 09:08:22	Situation S22 (PORT CHECK)	Location WEST END / HORN ISLAND
Dispatcher Mogollon, Sherry	How Received Contact	Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0205

Time Received 07/05/2026 10:05:53	Situation ASSI (ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY)	Location NW TIP OF HORN ISLAND
Dispatcher Mogollon, Sherry	How Received Telephone	Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0214

Time Received 07/05/2026 13:23:10	Situation KNOCK AND TALK (KNOCK AND TALK)	Location 3009 ARTIMESE AVE
Dispatcher Griffin, Debbie	How Received Contact	Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0215

Time Received 07/05/2026 13:48:47	Situation KNOCK AND TALK (KNOCK AND TALK)	Location PLAYBOY PARK N/A
Dispatcher Mogollon, Sherry	How Received Contact	Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

Incident#: MP2607-0016



OFFICIAL SWORN POLICE REPORT

MDMR Marine Patrol

1141 Bayview Ave Biloxi, MS 39530 (228) 374-5000



STATION COMPLAINT UCR/Offense Code MISS (MISSING PERSON)			INCIDENT # MP2607-0016	
REPORT TYPE Non Criminal Report	RELATED CAD # 2607-0205	DESCRIPTION ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY		
DOT #	LOCATION OF OFFENSE (HOUSE NO., STREET NAME) NW TIP OF HORN ISLAND OCEAN SPRINGS, MS (0,0)			
Primary Officer Smith, Shay				
HOW RECEIVED Telephone	WHEN REPORTED 07/05/2026 10:05	TIME OF OCCURRENCE 07/05/2026 10:05	STATUS CODE	STATUS DATE

2607-0216

Time Received 07/05/2026 14:00:10	Situation ASSI (ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY)	Location Horn Island Pass
Dispatcher Mogollon, Sherry	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0217

Time Received 07/05/2026 14:47:41	Situation KNOCK AND TALK (KNOCK AND TALK)	Location 3507 HASTINGS LN
Dispatcher Griffin, Debbie	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0219

Time Received 07/05/2026 15:09:43	Situation KNOCK AND TALK (KNOCK AND TALK)	Location 2809 DENNY AVE / SINGING RIVER HOSP
Dispatcher Griffin, Debbie	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0220

Time Received 07/05/2026 15:22:03	Situation KNOCK AND TALK (KNOCK AND TALK)	Location 150 REYNOIR BILOXI HOSPITAL
Dispatcher Mogollon, Sherry	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0226

Time Received 07/05/2026 16:40:48	Situation FOLUP (FOLLOW UP)	Location 12350 CARDINAL Ln
Dispatcher Mogollon, Sherry	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0229

Time Received 07/05/2026 18:46:43	Situation ASSI (ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY)	Location Lake Mars Boat Ramp
Dispatcher Hosty, Neva	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT



OFFICIAL SWORN POLICE REPORT



MDMR Marine Patrol

1141 Bayview Ave Biloxi, MS 39530 (228) 374-5000

Incident#: MP2607-0016

STATION COMPLAINT UCR/Offense Code			INCIDENT #	
MISS (MISSING PERSON)			MP2607-0016	
REPORT TYPE	RELATED CAD #	DESCRIPTION		
Non Criminal Report	2607-0205	ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY		
DOT #	LOCATION OF OFFENSE (HOUSE NO., STREET NAME)			
	NW TIP OF HORN ISLAND OCEAN SPRINGS, MS			
Primary Officer Smith, Shay	(0,0)			
HOW RECEIVED	WHEN REPORTED	TIME OF OCCURRENCE	STATUS CODE	STATUS DATE
Telephone	07/05/2026 10:05	07/05/2026 10:05		

2607-0240

Time Received 07/06/2026 09:11:09	Situation ASSI (ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY)	Location Horn Island
Dispatcher Thomas, Dena	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition CLEAR WITHOUT A REPORT

2607-0241

Time Received 07/06/2026 10:07:36	Situation S25 (DECEASED)	Location N OF HORN ISLAND
Dispatcher Thomas, Dena	How Received	Contact
		Primary Officer Disposition

Responding Departments

Report #	Department
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Responding Personnel

Unit/Role	Dispatched	En Route	On Scene	Transport	Trans/Arrv	Trans/Dprt	In Quarters	Cleared	Unit Disposition	Total Time
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Responder	Start Mileage	End Mileage	Total Milage
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