



January 6, 2022

NEWS RELEASE: Humboldt Bay Fire, HBF Dive Rescue & Recovery Team, & Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

Subject : HBF Dive Team Joins Search for Missing Canoeer Hunter Lewis

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At about 7:30a.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2022 the Humboldt Bay Fire Dive Rescue & Recovery Team (HBF DRRT) joined the ongoing search for missing canoeer Hunter Lewis. Hunter was reported missing on Thursday, December 30, 2021, after he failed to return home from recreating in Trinidad. Hunter is believed to have entered the ocean in his canoe near Trinidad Harbor that morning.

The HBF DRRT began coordinating the underwater search this week based on new information from the family regarding Hunter's last known destination. Due to the exceptionally high surf, tidal swings, and winds that have been present since Hunter went missing and the oncoming storm surge expected Thursday evening, the team predicted a narrow window this morning where conditions would allow for a dive.

The HBF DRRT partnered with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, California State Parks and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct today's search. Resources used in the search included multiple boats, a side-scan and a deep-water sonar, lifeguards, divers, and a HBF rescue swimmer.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office also provided scene security to ensure the privacy of involved family.

The team concluded their search by 1 p.m. Unfortunately, they did not find any signs of Hunter nor any of his belongings.

At this time, we are asking the public to leave aquatic search efforts to the professional rescuers. The area in which Hunter went missing is extremely hazardous given the current weather conditions and may likely endanger the health and safety of well-meaning searchers.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to monitor local beaches for signs of Hunter or his belongings. Anyone with information regarding Hunter's current or possible whereabouts is urged to contact the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office at 707-445-7251.

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