

# CITY OF OSAWATOMIE



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*L. Mark Govea, Mayor*

## NEWS RELEASE

**Monday, June 12, 2017**

### **Osawatomie Fire Department Dive Team recovers drowning victim at Hillsdale Lake**

The body of a 43-year-old Johnson County man was recovered from Hillsdale Lake Saturday morning nearly two hours after divers resumed their search efforts.

The man was identified as Eric J. Abad, of Shawnee.

The search was prompted after Abad's cell phone and clothing were found on the lake's swimming beach at closing Friday night. Authorities would later learn Abad's vehicle was found parked at the beach the night before, and reported by law enforcement as unoccupied.

At about 9:30 p.m. Friday, the Osawatomie Fire Department Dive Team was requested to help authorities search for the man. After several hours spent searching waters by sonar, officials with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Johnson County Fire District No. 2 and Osawatomie suspended their efforts around midnight.

Shortly after sunrise, search efforts resumed at about 6 a.m. as crews continued using sonar equipment to search the murky water. Less than two hours into the search, sonar detected what appeared to be the man's body.

A short time later, divers recovered Abad's body from the swimming area at about 8 a.m. Officials said the water depth in the area where he was discovered was nearly 10 feet deep.

Questions regarding the search and recovery efforts may be directed to Brian Love, Osawatomie Fire Chief, at 913-731-4370 or by email at [ozfdchief1@yahoo.com](mailto:ozfdchief1@yahoo.com). However, questions regarding the investigation of the incident may be directed to Miami County Undersheriff Wayne Minckley at 913-294-3232 or by email at [wminckley@micosheriff.org](mailto:wminckley@micosheriff.org).