

OFFICE OF THE
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INYO COUNTY, CA



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK MULTIAGENCY SAR

INYO COUNTY, CA, APRIL 8, 2021 – On Tuesday April 6 at approximately 6:15pm Inyo County Sheriff's Dispatch was notified of two potentially missing individuals. According to the reporting party, 32 year-old Alexander Lofgren, and girlfriend 27 year-old Emily Henkel, both from Tucson, AZ left Helendale, CA for a camping trip in Death Valley National Park and were due to return Sunday April 4.

On April 6, after receiving notification of the two potentially missing individuals all hotels were checked in the Death Valley National Park (DVNP) area, and a "be on the lookout" (BOLO) was sent to CHP and DVNP for their white 2018 Subaru Forester with Yakima roof rack. Additionally both were left messages on their cell phones to contact the Inyo County Sheriff's Office as soon as possible; both phones went straight to voicemail.

On April 7, the entire Death Valley Highway 190, from Death Valley Junction to Lone Pine, was driven and every monument and attraction along to route was checked. DVNP assisted in checking every site listed on Lofgren's backcountry itinerary. Lofgren had entered a backcountry registration log listing the following destinations while they were in the park: Artist Drive, Devils Golf Course, Racetrack, and Badwater Basin. All the areas were checked and some were checked morning and afternoon with no results.

On April 7, Lofgren and Henkel were entered into the Missing and Unidentified Persons (MUPS) database. Forensic analysis of both parties' cell phones did not provide useful information due to the remote location and lack of cellular service.

Today, both aerial support and ground support will be utilized throughout the Death Valley area.

Both Lofgren and Henkel are described as experienced campers. Lofgren is believed to have jugs of water and at least one day's worth of food as well as camping gear. Lofgren is known for camping in remote areas that are not designated campgrounds.

Assisting agencies currently: Inyo County Search and Rescue, Death Valley National Park, Inyo Sheriff, and China Lake Naval Weapons Base for aerial.

The public is asked to contact Inyo SO with any information that may assist in this search: 760-878-0383 option 4.

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