



# Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

826 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

**Date:** 08-14-2015

**From:** Lt. Wayne Hanson  
(707) 268-3641

**Subject:** Death Investigation

**Case:** 2015-3854

## UPDATE

On 08-13-2015 at 1:55 p.m. the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office received a telephone call from a citizen, regarding a deceased subject they had found off the Briceland- Whitethorn Road. Deputies arrived on scene at 2:45 p.m. about spoke to the citizens, who found the deceased subject. They reported they work as fish biologists and had discovered the deceased body in a creek about 50 yards to the west of the Whitethorn Road.

Deputies then walked down to the scene, which was about ½ miles to the north of the Mendocino/Humboldt County line. The decomposing body was lying in the creek bed and it appeared that the human remains had been there for a while.

The Humboldt County Coroner's Office responded to the scene and took possession of the body. The body was later identified through tattoos and identification located in the pants pocket as the missing person, 44 year old Scott Joseph Fitzgerald.

An autopsy is pending for exact cause of death.

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On 08-10-2015 at 4:25 p.m. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Deputy took a missing person report, regarding 44 year old, Scott Joseph Fitzgerald. The Deputy spoke to Fitzgerald's sister on the telephone. She lives in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

She said Scott was last heard from on 07-26-2015 and she was concerned about his welfare, because he has medical issues and walks with a cane. Scott was in the Eureka area staying with friends, he told these friends he was going to drive to Garberville.

On 08-03-2015 friends looking for Scott found his vehicle at the BLM, Wailaki camp ground in the Whitethorn area. Scott's vehicle is described as a 1999, dark blue, Jeep, Grand Cherokee. Scott was not at the camp site. Scott had stayed at this camp ground in the past so friends were not concerned.

On 08-10-2015 friends went back to the camp site to check on Scott. They noticed his vehicle was still at the camp site and he still was not there. They noticed his food was rotting and it appeared he had not been there in a while.

On 08-05-2015 Scott's dog was found wandering in the Whitethorn area. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Animal Control responded and picked up the dog. A friend of Scott's later took custody of the dog from the Animal Shelter in McKinleyville.

The Sheriff's Office with assistance from BLM has checked the surrounding area on Scott's campground and did not locate Scott.

The Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help for any information of Scott Fitzgerald's location. Scott is described as a white, male, adult, age 44, 6' - 2" in height, 185 pounds brown hair with hazel eyes.

Anyone with information for the Sheriff's Office regarding this case or related criminal activity is encouraged to call the Sheriff's Office at 707-445-7251 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line at 707-268-2539.

Mike Downey, Sheriff