



Rabun County Office of Emergency Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 26, 2024

The Rabun County Office of Emergency Management and the Rabun County Volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) was contacted the evening of Saturday, July 13, 2024, regarding a possible missing male in the Old Coleman River Road area. A vehicle belonging to the subject was located in the area and towed on Sunday, July 7, 2024 by the Rabun County Sheriff's Office. The missing male, Vaughn Callenback, was described as a 77-year-old white male, 5'7" 165 lbs., with a grey beard.

Members of these agencies immediately responded to the area to begin a hasty search around where the vehicle was recovered. Once the hasty search was completed in the early morning hours of Sunday, July 14, 2024, planning for additional searches began at 07:30 that morning. These searches continued over a period of six days following the initial search operation. Professional, dedicated volunteers with a wide variety of experience returned to the area and performed diligent and thorough search efforts in hopes of locating the missing male.

In total, ten (10) different certified K-9 resources responded and were utilized strategically in helping ground teams cover a large search area. An unmanned aerial system (UAS) drone asset was deployed to assist in the initial search. Search and Rescue teams working this incident also employed the use of a topographical mapping software specifically designed for this type of search operation to ensure search coverage area.

For reference, statistics have been provided below on area covered over the numerous operational periods.

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|---|------------------|
| • Ground area Searched by Hiking, Bushwhacking, ATV/UTV, and Motorcycle | 222.61 miles |
| • Elevation changes in the search area | 37,011 feet |
| • Days of Searching | 7 |
| • Hours in the Search area | 119 hours 45 min |

Agencies and number of personnel that assisted with search efforts

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Rabun County EMA/Search and Rescue | 32 |
| • Rabun County Sheriff Office | 2 |
| • Rabun County UAS (Drone) | 1 |
| • Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) | 1 |
| • Central Georgia K-9 Search and Rescue | 2 |
| • Spartanburg County (SC) Search and Rescue - SCSAR | 7 |
| • Pickens County Fire Rescue (K-9) | 1 |
| • K-9 Handler/Flankers | 16 |
| • Georgia DNR Law Enforcement K-9 | 1 |
| • Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division | 8 |
| • Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division | 1 |
| • Georgia Bureau of Investigations | 5 |

Rabun County EMA/SAR is dedicated to their mission and will coordinate additional operational periods if new information is received. Anyone performing search efforts on their own is urged to do so at their own risk and use extreme caution due to treacherous conditions, venomous snakes, limited communication abilities, and other hazards associated within this rural search area.