NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____
February 13, 2014

Suffolk
V I R G I N I A
It's a good time to be in Suffolk

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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 13, 2014)   Suffolk Police advise that following the preliminary investigation into yesterday's fatal accident it was determined that after the victim's cell phone was pinged following his call to 911 at 5:57 a.m. and subsequent lost connection, his location was narrowed to a specific tower. Emergency crews from five jurisdictions then immediately began their search of all bodies of water in the area of that tower. Through additional efforts Suffolk Police were able to obtain his name and home address through phone records and were able to contact his family.   Once his normal route to work was determined, officers began looking for where any bodies of water intersected his normal route of travel.   Between 8:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. officers reported to Emergency Communications that they found what looked to be a tire track and a piece of a vehicle in the 9400 block of South Quay Road.   A short time later, Virginia State Police divers entered the water and located the truck.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation. To correct information from the initial release, Daniel Lee Post was 52, not 53 as initially stated.

Following the second fatal vehicle accident with a submerged vehicle within virtually hours of one another, Suffolk Police would like to provide these safety tips so citizens are prepared for a potential water escape:

Step 1: Keep time on your side.

When the car hits water, it will float for a few minutes before the weight of the vehicle pulls it under. The driver and passengers should try to stay calm and focus on getting out of the vehicle. There will not be time to call 9-1-1 immediately. Wait until you are out of the vehicle and then call 9-1-1.

Step 2: Remove seatbelts.

Unbuckle your seatbelt. If there are children in the vehicle, help them do the same. Start with the oldest children so that they can help younger children unbuckle. Hold on to young children who cannot swim.

Step 3: Roll down the window – or break it.

Forget about opening the car door. As the vehicle sinks, the water pressure will make it too difficult to open the door. Instead, roll down the window.

If you have electric windows, the electrical system in the vehicle should work for up to three minutes under water. Take a breath. Open the window.

If the electrical system shorts out, break the glass with a blunt object. (Purchase a tool for this purpose in advance, and keep it where you can quickly reach it.) Or, kick the window out, if necessary.

Step 4: Swim to safety.

Once the window is open, swim through it. Move away from the vehicle and toward the surface. If there are passengers in the car, send them ahead of you. Don't wait for the car to reach the bottom before opening a window or door. Get out as quickly as possible.

After reaching land, find someone who can help you contact police and obtain needed medical care.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 13, 2014)   Suffolk Police have identified the victim from this morning's fatal vehicle accident as Daniel Post, age 53, of Franklin.

The involved vehicle was a Dodge Dakota pick-up. The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

POLICE ON SCENE OF FATAL VEHICLE ACCIDENT

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 13, 2014)   Suffolk Police and Suffolk Fire & Rescue are currently on the scene of a fatal vehicle accident which occurred this morning.

Suffolk emergency communications received the call from the male driver/victim at approximately 5:57 a.m. advising that his vehicle had left the roadway and was submerged in a body of water but he was unsure of his exact location.

Emergency communications advised that they were able to get a ping from the cell phone tower to determine an approximate location, and emergency crews from the Suffolk Police Department, Virginia State Police, Southampton County Sheriff's Office, Franklin Police Department and Isle of Wight Sheriff's Office responded to try to search for the accident location.

Suffolk Police were able to locate a set of tire tracks which led to a small pond in the 9400 block of South Quay Road in the rural area of Suffolk off of Route 58.

The male driver was confirmed deceased.   The identity of the victim will be provided once next of kin have been notified.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

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