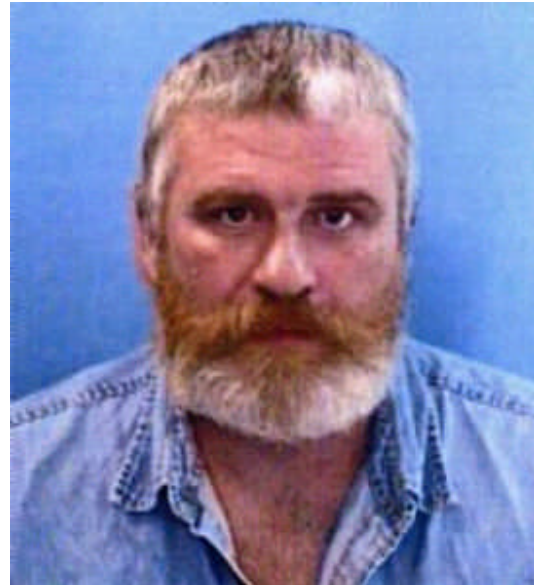




NEWS

Man missing after Lycoming Township fire

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A 58-year-old man was still missing Friday after a fire destroyed his log home early that morning, police said.

The fire broke out at about 2:30 a.m. at the home of Michael P. Fink, 1707 Mill Hill Road, in Lycoming Township.

County Coroner Charles E. Kiessling Jr. was called to the scene, along with a state police fire marshal. Initial reports said one person had been killed, but a search of the rubble turned up nothing, according to Old Lycoming Township Police.

“They searched the scene and didn’t recover any body,” Cpl. Chris Kriner said.

The fire reduced Fink’s house to charred ruins.

“There has been no determination of cause of the fire or its origin,” Kriner said.

Kriner confirmed that Fink is now considered missing and has been listed in a national database of missing persons. No foul play is suspected.

Police said Fink lived alone and did not drive.

“Obviously, we are handling it as a disappearance,” Sgt. Joseph Hope said.

Hope said an extensive search of the property and surrounding area was conducted employing a state police helicopter and trained dogs as well as police and emergency personnel.

Fink is described as a white male, 6 feet, 1 inch in height, weighing 160 pounds, with brown eyes, salt and pepper hair, a beard, mustache and a large belly.

Anyone with information about Fink’s whereabouts is asked to call Old Lycoming Township police.

Police said they were not sure if any more searches for Fink would be conducted.

The local chapter of the American Red Cross responded to the scene about 4 a.m. Five volunteers brought refreshments and offered assistance to members of Fink’s extended family, Kathy Stine, deputy director of North Central Pennsylvania chapter of the Red Cross said.

Red Cross officials remained at the scene until shortly after 7 a.m.

Firefighters from Hepburn Township, Woodward Township, Williamsport, Duboistown, Old Lycoming Township, Trout Run, Nippenose Valley, Loyalsock Township, Montoursville, Eldred Township, Muncy Township, Ralston and South Williamsport responded.