



Milton Police Department
37 Bombardier Road
Milton, VT 05468
(802) 893-6171 Voice



Press Release

(Released 06/18/2014)

On Wednesday June 18, 2014 at 3:15 PM, Milton Police and Milton Rescue responded to Boysenberry Drive for a report of a male and female that had been attacked by a bear. Upon arrival, the female was identified as Ladonna L. Merriman, age 44 and the male was identified as Lucas J. Gingras, age 28, both of Milton.

Gingras told police the bear attack occurred on Georgia Mountain about a mile up the hill into the woods off Clay Ridge Road in Milton. He said the attack by the bear that had two cubs, occurred at a hunting cabin. He said the bear tried getting into the cabin where he and Merriman were staying and somehow a camp stove got knocked over catching the cabin on fire.

Merriman and Gingras reportedly were able to make their way off the mountain and were driven to their residence on Boysenberry Drive by Steve Underwood, age 29, of Milton. Rescue was then called from that residence.

Both Merriman and Gingras were transported to Fletcher Allen Health Care hospital in Burlington where they were admitted. Merriman has serious injuries and Gingras has less severe injuries.

The initial on scene investigation by Milton Police and Vermont Fish and Wildlife wardens could not substantiate the report that Merriman and Gingras were attacked by a bear. The cabin had been burned as reported and was a total loss.

(Updated 06/19/2014 at 5:45 PM)

Further investigation in speaking more with both Merriman and Gingras at the hospital revealed that some drugs may have been involved. Gingras said he intentionally knocked over the wood stove.

Fish and Wildlife wardens and Milton Police returned to the mountain again today and re-examined the scene of the burned out cabin and the trails and surrounding area. A steep ledge was located and there was evidence of a person going over the edge of the ledge and landing on some trees and rocks below. Physical evidence was obtained both last night and today which will be analyzed to assist in this investigation.

The investigation to date has positively confirmed that Merriman and Gingras were not attacked by a bear. Investigation continues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Locke".

Paul Locke
Detective Corporal