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Press Release

Search for Missing Woman and her Son in Lake Livingston Successful

On Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at approximately 9pm, the San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call regarding a man who was rescued from the water in Lake Livingston by a good Samaritan with a boat. The resident advised they could hear the man yelling for help, boarded their own boat and found him.

The rescued man, Ricardo Lopez, 37 of South Houston, advised that he and his girlfriend, Patricia Floriano, 34 of Jacinto City, and her 14-year-old son, went out on his boat to go fishing around 1pm. After fishing for a while and enjoying a day on the lake, Lopez said he observed severe weather coming in rapidly between 6 and 7pm. Lopez said the waves were starting to grow. He started heading back towards the marina, however, the waves crashed over the bow of his boat causing it to 'swamp' and roll over. All 3 jumped out of the capsizing boat. All were wearing life vests and even had several others life vests tied together to use as an additional flotation device. Lopez stayed with Floriano and her son for about 30 minutes then decided to swim towards the Western shoreline to get help. He stated it got dark on him, but he continued to swim towards the lights. He said he heard music and saw some people on a dock. He began yelling to them for help and they boarded their boat and rescued him.

The San Jacinto County Sheriff's Office, the Cape Royale VFD, The Camilla VFD, the Texas Highway Patrol, the Texas Parks & Wildlife, Precinct 2 Constable Roy Pippin, Haz Mat Special Services out of LaPorte Texas, and the US Coast Guard participated in the search for Floriano and her son. At about 2am, the USCG Helicopter spotted them floating in the lake several miles away from where the boat capsized. Texas Parks & Wildlife boat rescued them from the water and delivered them to the marina where EMS checked them out. Even after floating in the lake for 6 to 7 hours, all were found to be in good shape and were released to head home. The boat has not been located. Lake Livingston, formed by the Trinity River, is the second largest man-made lake in the state, with over 30 miles of shoreline in San Jacinto County.

Sheriff Capers would like to remind everyone; Having fun on the lake can be a memorable experience. However, make it a pleasant experience by keeping a close watch on weather and always wear your life vest. Life vests can save your life as was so evident in tonight's event.