

August, 2026

Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety

Report to Public Safety and Law Enforcement Committee

- Members of DPS along with members of local ARES(Amateur Radio Emergency Services) conducted testing of new communication equipment in a infrastructure denied area of Sullivan County, simulating a SAR incident. The purpose was to identify strength and weaknesses in current equipment for real world events and to be better prepared for keeping searchers safe and in communication.
- Acting Commissioner Fridlich assisted in the Youth Academy bringing new tech being deployed through out the county. Demonstrating the benefits of ATAK and having situational awareness in the palm of your hands. In addition to this, an exercise was conducted for the first time using the divisions heavy lift drone and deploying a basket with medical supplies to the search party. This is something that has been in the plans and training since obtaining the UAS and was the first time its was deployed in a “real world” event, allowing DPS to test the abilities of our equipment prior to any natural disasters or critical incidents.
- New command vehicle is finished and ready for deployment.
- DPS assisted Bethel Woods during the sold out Billy Strings concert, that brought over 16K people and campers over a weekend, opening the EOC, with local and state partners participating.
- Over the week of July 27th, as you all are aware Sullivan County was struck with strong storms and heavy rain. DPS along with County SAR and volunteer departments assisted in a number of water rescues and searches. A large search in North Branch was Coordinated by Fire Coordinator Hauschild, and Deputy Fire Coordinator/Special Operations Soller who brought about a successful search for a missing person after his vehicle was located in the creek. During this search a cache of newly obtained phones equipped with ATAK were deployed and played a pinnacle role in SA and tracking search teams, along with documenting artifacts found during the searches.