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Search for Drowning Victim Continues

Harlan County

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The difficult search through murky water continued Sunday for a man lost in a boating accident. According to the Harlan County Sheriff's Department, 41-year-old David Holland and his brother, 42-year-old Jim Holland drowned on February 13th during a fishing trip. It happened at the Harlan County Reservoir when their boat capsized. David's body was pulled from the lake on Valentine's Day, but his brother has yet to be found.

"Fishing, hunting, that's what they love to do. That's what their life's been about, fishing, hunting, and taking care of their kids," says Alan Wilson, a

nephew of David and Jim.

As more search and rescue teams are brought in to look for Jim Holland, his family clings to the hope his body can be recovered.

"There's still no guarantees here, but there's a lot of hope," says Wilson.

Rescuers spent several hours breaking up icy waters before the search could even begin. The rescue team is using a special sonar locating device known as a side-scan sonar. The device projects radar out from the bottom of the lake as far as sixty-sixty feet on each side. Then images can be picked up clearly enough to determine if a rescue dive should take place.

"As they tend to dial things in and get better resolution, they'll focus in on what they think might be a viable dive or something of interest on the bottom to them," says Brad Thavenot of Dive Rescue International.

While it's been over a week since the accident, rescue workers say they're confident with this new sonar device equipment they'll be able to locate the body. The family also says they're hopeful for a rescue they say will help give them some closure.

"There's no guarantees on what they can do, but the technology they brought to the table and the hope we have on this is we're going to get 'em," says Wilson.

As of Sunday night, the body was yet to be found. But the rescue teams say they will be going over five to six hours worth of radar images where they can zoom in more and get a better idea of what they covered on Sunday. From there, they'll determine where to begin the search Monday morning. Crews say they will continue searching through Tuesday.

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