

Massachusetts State Police nab fugitive leaving scene of accident

“At approximately 7 a.m. yesterday patrols from State Police-Lee and State Police-Westfield responded to numerous calls reporting a single-vehicle crash on Route 90 eastbound in Becket. Witnesses reported that a man exited the vehicle after crashing and fled the scene on foot.

An investigation at the scene revealed that the operator of the vehicle was likely DIEGO MARTINEZ, 30, of Sabattus, Maine. MARTINEZ was the subject of several extraditable warrants for his failure to appear in court on illegal drug and firearm possession offenses, as well as for criminal motor vehicle offenses.

Troopers immediately enlisted the assistance of the Massachusetts State Police K9 Unit, the State Police Air Wing, Massachusetts Environmental Police, Becket Police patrols, and a K9, and Lee Police in order to conduct a thorough search of the area.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

Throughout Tuesday a methodical search was conducted. Troopers, Officers and MSP and Becket K9 teams scouted the woods for several miles.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. Troopers received information that MARTINEZ may have been in the area of Goose Pond, at which point numerous Troopers and Officers converged on the area.

Lee Police Chief Craig Desantis transported Troopers and MSP K9 Emma on a boat to the area while numerous other Troopers

and Officers walked along trails in order to approach from multiple angles.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. Troopers and Officers converged on a cabin at Goose Pond. Members of the search team observed the suspect on the front porch of the cabin. MSP K9 Trooper Norman Stanikmas, K9 Emma's handler, issued warnings that Emma would be deployed to apprehend the suspect if he did not surrender, while he and other Troopers and local police officers advanced toward the porch



Massachusetts State Police photo.

MARTINEZ then surrendered without incident and was placed into custody. He was transported by boat to an MSP cruiser and transported to the State Police-Lee Barracks for booking where he was ordered to be held without bail pending his appearance at Great Barrington District Court. He is expected to be extradited to Maine where he will be brought before a judge for the aforementioned warrants.

Multiagency cooperation was instrumental in placing MARTINEZ under arrest."