

# WEB NEWS: Bridge Jumper Search Ends



A dog and handler from Maine Search and Rescue Dogs search the Kennebec River this morning aboard a Bath Police boat for a missing man, believed to have jumped from the Sagadahoc Bridge in Woolwich Wednesday night.

*(Troy R. Bennett / The Times Record)*

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Published:

Thursday, November 4, 2010 3:38 PM EDT

BATH — Sagadahoc County Sheriff Joel Merry this afternoon said that search teams have abandoned their quest to find a man who jumped off Sagadahoc Bridge into the Kennebec River late Wednesday afternoon.

This afternoon, Merry said the search, which was overseen by Maine Marine Patrol, was called off at approximately noon. Taking part in the search was a team of Maine State Police divers, who unable to locate any sign of the man during several plunges into the river, according to Merry.

"So right now," Merry said, "it has clearly become a matter of recovery, but there's no plans to initiate a search in the water going forward. We'll watch the (river) banks and docks and areas like that."

Witnesses at 5:11 p.m. Wednesday reported that they had seen a man, wearing a backpack, crawl over the rails of the south side of the bridge and jump into the Kennebec River below.

Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department investigators continue to try to determine the identity of the jumper.

"We are looking into an individual from the area," Merry said this afternoon. "It's difficult because the person does not have any firm roots. There has been no confirmation. We do have a name of someone who we are looking for, but I'm not in a position to release that at this time."

"The sheriff's department will continue its investigation," Merry said, adding, "We'll keep the case open and gather any information we can, but in terms of an individual, you have to kind of wait and see that no one has seen this person, heard from them, and so you have to kind of let some time pass."

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