

## Mo. Highway Patrol Working to Recover Body of Water Patrol Officer

<http://lawofficer.com/archive/mo-highway-patrol-working-to-recover-body-of-water-patrol-officer/>

August 2, 2011 [Law Officer](#)

**BIG LAKE, Mo.** — The search for missing Missouri State Trooper Fred Guthrie, 46, and his K-9 partner, Reed, has sadly turned into a recovery operation. Guthrie was a 17-year veteran of the specialized State Water Patrol (SWP), which was founded in 1959 and has not previously experienced a line-of-duty death. K-9 Reed had been his partner for five years.



**Fred Guthrie Jr.**

Guthrie's patrol truck was found on Monday afternoon. Neither Guthrie nor K-9 Reed could be located. The specific details of what happened are unknown but there is some speculation that the dog may have gotten in trouble and the trooper then went to his aid. They were "apparently swept away by swift floodwater in the area," according to a press release from the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

The SWP, which recently became a part of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, provides its officers with extensive training in dealing with swift water rescues and flood situations. After a number of close calls during rescues, the SWP developed and presented specialized swift water training in 2009 that covered boat operations in swift water, self-rescue and other flood rescue techniques.

Officers from several agencies using vehicles, boats and aircraft are participating in the recovery effort.

Trooper Fred Guthrie and his canine, Reed, are presumed drowned after being swept into flood waters in the area of Routes 118 and 111 in Holt County. Trooper Guthrie was on river flood patrol duty when another patrol unit discovered his patrol truck idling on the road at about 3:00 pm, with his patrol boat still on its trailer.

A massive search was initiated but neither Trooper Guthrie nor K9 Reed could be located. The search was officially changed to a recovery effort later that evening. K9 Reed's body was recovered Tuesday evening while Trooper Guthrie remains missing.

Trooper Guthrie had served with the Missouri State Water Patrol for 17 years until the agency was merged into the Missouri State Highway Patrol in January 2011. He was assigned to the Highway Patrol's Water Division when the incident occurred.

PLATTE COUNTY, Mo.—

The body of the dog known as Patrol K-9 Reed, was recovered Tuesday evening about 100 yards from the vehicle used by his partner Trooper Frederick "Fred" F. Guthrie Jr., of Platte City, Mo.

Reed's body was found in swift-moving flood water near a damn being built to redirect water flow.

Guthrie and Reed went missing on Monday while working flood duty on the Missouri River in the area of Big Lake on Missouri 118 and Missouri 111 in Holt County. It is believed the two were swept away by swift flood waters. Guthrie is presumed drowned, but his body has not been found.

"We know that he drowned, but how is all speculation," said Sgt. Sheldon Lyon of the Missouri Highway Patrol. "We'll just have to see what investigators determine at the scene to try to piece together this very unusual event."

According to investigators, Guthrie was last seen around 1 p.m. on Monday. About two hours later, his vehicle was found with the engine running and the door open. Guthrie joined the Missouri State Water Patrol on Jan. 2, 1994 and transitioned to trooper with the merger to the Highway Patrol on Jan. 1, 2011, where he has served in the Water Patrol Division within Troop A serving Platte County.

The search for Guthrie was called off Monday night, but resumed Tuesday morning. Numerous law enforcement agencies, including the patrol's aircraft and water patrol divisions will participate in the recovery effort.

The incident is currently under investigation, but investigators say that there is absolutely no sign of foul play, and that the cause of death will be listed as drowning.



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<https://www.odmp.org/officer/20919-trooper-frederick-freeman-guthrie-jr>



<b><i>Bio &amp; Incident Details</i></b>
<b>Age:</b> 46
<b>Tour:</b> 17 years, 7 months
<b>Badge #</b> 1322
<b>Cause:</b> Drowned

**Frederick Freeman Guthrie, Jr.**

Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri

## **End of Watch: Monday, August 1, 2011**

Trooper Fred Guthrie and his canine, Reed, drowned after being swept into flood waters in the area of Routes 118 and 111 in Holt County. Trooper Guthrie was on river flood patrol duty when another patrol unit discovered his patrol truck idling on the road at about 3:00 pm, with his patrol boat still on its trailer.

A massive search was initiated but neither Trooper Guthrie nor K9 Reed could be located. The search was officially changed to a recovery effort later that evening. K9 Reed's body was recovered the following evening. Trooper Guthrie's body was recovered on January 12, 2012, near the area where K9 Reed's body was recovered.

Trooper Guthrie had served with the Missouri State Water Patrol for 17 years until the agency was merged into the Missouri State Highway Patrol in January 2011. He was assigned to the Highway Patrol's Water Division when the incident occurred.

## **Dedicated to Preserving the Memory of Our NAPWDA Law Enforcement Members and Member's K-9 Partners Killed in the Line of Duty**

<http://www.napwda.com/trooper-frederick-fred-guthrie-k9-reed>

### **NAPWDA...In Memoriam**



**Trooper Frederick "Fred" Guthrie Jr. and K9 Reed  
End of Watch – August 1, 2011**

Missing Missouri Highway Patrol Trooper Frederick Guthrie was never one to consider himself a hero, even when the governor of Missouri said otherwise. Then-Gov. Matt Blunt presented Trooper Fredrick Guthrie a state Medal of Valor for his 2007 rescue of a woman who was clinging to a buoy in Smithville Lake after being thrown from her boat during a heavy thunderstorm. But Guthrie

said he didn't consider himself a hero. "I was just at the right place at the right time and doing my job," he said.

Authorities think Trooper Guthrie drowned Monday afternoon, August 1, while on flood duty in Holt County in Northwest Missouri. His patrol vehicle was found about two hours after his colleagues broke for lunch Monday at the junction of Missouri 118 and Missouri 111 around 3:00p.m., boat still in tow. Trooper Guthrie was patrolling streets, homes and farms that had been evacuated, Sgt. Sheldon Lyon said. Trooper Guthrie and his dog, K9 Reed, were last seen at 1 p.m. Monday. Details of how Trooper Guthrie died have not been determined. K9 Reed was recovered about 6:25 p.m. Tuesday. K9 Reed floated to the surface about three hours after a Black Hawk began to dam the area where Trooper Guthrie's still running truck was found. K9 Reed was discovered about 75-yards from where Trooper Guthrie's vehicle was located. It appears that Trooper Guthrie and K9 Reed were swept away by swift floodwaters. Lyon said it is possible that Trooper Guthrie got out of his truck and was swept away by water rushing across the road.

"It's very deceiving," Lyon said. "You look at these fields around us and they're very flat. When the Missouri River gets outside of its banks, if you look at the water you think it looks like a lake. When you examine what it's doing, there is current and in some locations that current is very strong."

Trooper Josh White was one of the first to search for Trooper Guthrie. White said it's a little harder searching for a colleague and a friend. "We just had one thing in mind and that's trying to find him, being somebody that you work with closely and know well then the urgency kind of hits home." he said. Initially, authorities were unsure what had happened and sealed the area as a crime scene. Later, they determined no crime had occurred and began to search for Trooper Guthrie. The search on Tuesday turned to a recovery mission when they concluded he drowned.

Trooper Frederick "Fred" Guthrie joined the Missouri State Water Patrol in January 1994. He became a trooper in a merger with the Highway Patrol in January 2011. Most recently, he served in Troop A in Platte County. K9 Reed had been with the Missouri Highway Patrol for five years. "He is the nicest person I have ever worked with," Lyon said. "You knew when you worked with Fred it was going to be a good day."

On September 28, 2011 Colonel Ron Repogle, superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, regretfully announced the official death of Trooper Frederick "Fred" F. Guthrie Jr. This announcement followed the issuance of Letters of Independent Administration by Platte County Associate Circuit Judge, James Van Amburg to Trooper Guthrie's spouse, Mrs. Teresa Guthrie. Judge Van Amburg issued the letters after hearing evidence and declaring that Trooper Guthrie was killed in the line of duty on August 1, 2011.

The search for Trooper Guthrie continued for months. On January 12, 2012, Trooper Guthrie's body was recovered under approximately 3 1/2 feet of

packed sand and silt, after a brush pile was removed during an excavation process. The recovery site was south of where K-9 Reed was found months earlier, near the original search site.

Trooper Guthrie is survived by his wife and three children. He is the 30th member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to die in the line of duty. A support fund has been established to assist Trooper Guthrie's wife and three children. Donations can be made in care of the Guthrie family fund to the bank of Weston at POB 8, Weston, mo., 64098.

### **REST IN PEACE TROOPER FREDERICK "FRED" GUTHRIE JR. & k9 rEED**



### **Missouri's fallen law enforcement officers honored during annual ceremony at State Capitol**

<http://dps.mo.gov/news/newsitem/uuid/6ba6e5b6-248e-4659-a489-9b90fc47eaa9>

**Frederick "Fred" F. Guthrie Jr.** End of Watch: Aug. 1, 2011 Rank: Trooper Department: Missouri State Highway Patrol Cause: Drowned Age: 46 Years of Service: 17

Trooper Guthrie and his canine, Reed, were swept into flood waters in Holt County while on river flooding patrol duty. Another patrol unit discovered Trooper Guthrie's Patrol truck idling on the road with his Patrol boat still on its trailer. A massive search was initiated, and K9 Reed's body was recovered the next day. The search for Trooper Guthrie continued and, on Jan. 12, 2012, his body was recovered.

### **Fund to help family of trooper feared dead in floodwaters**

<http://krcgtv.com/news/local/fund-to-help-family-of-trooper-feared-dead-in-floodwaters>

03 Aug 2011

A support fund has been set up to help the family of a Highway Patrol trooper feared dead.

Trooper Frederick Guthrie Jr. went missing Monday afternoon with his patrol K9, Reed, while working Missouri River flood duty in the northwest part of the state. On Tuesday, rescue crews pulled the dog's body out of the water. They have yet to find Guthrie, but believe he drowned in the fast currents.

Trooper Guthrie, a 17 year veteran trooper, leaves behind a wife and three children.

To help support his family, the Highway Patrol has set up a fund at the Bank of Weston, Missouri. You can mail checks to PO Box 8, Weston, Missouri 64098. The funds should be sent to the bank in care of the Guthrie Family Fund.