

# BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**Troy Heck, Sheriff**  
**Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy**

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE: 01/25/2022**

### **AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK**

On 01/15/2022 at about 10:00 am the Benton County Sheriff's Office received a call from a citizen advising that there was a burned snowmobile on the ice of Little Rock Lake. Responding deputies found a snowmobile chassis that had been completely consumed by fire about 50 feet from shore near Erdmann's Point on the east side of Little Rock Lake. An inspection of the site found that only the snowmobile frame and a few other substantial metal parts escaped the fire. All these pieces were found to be stuck in the frozen surface of the lake. Evidence at the scene suggested that the snowmobile began leaking a combustible fluid which then ignited, causing the fire. Deputies were unable to locate any identifying marks or numbers on the remaining pieces of the snowmobile. Responding deputies determined that there was no evidentiary value to the remaining parts of the snowmobile and that removal of the parts would be challenging due to the parts being stuck in the frozen lake surface. Deputies cleared from the scene, leaving the snowmobile parts as they found them with plans to return with additional resources to facilitate the removal of the remaining parts.

On 01/20/2022 the Benton County Sheriff's Office received a call from another citizen advising that the snowmobile parts previously found on the frozen lake had been removed from the ice and dumped alongside Sucker Creek Rd NW. Deputies responded to the scene and confirmed that someone had removed the snowmobile parts from the lake and left them on the roadside.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is seeking to contact the owner of the snowmobile and the person(s) who dumped the snowmobile parts on the roadside. Anyone with information about this incident or the parties involved is asked to contact the Benton County Sheriff's Office at (320) 968-7201 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at (800) 255-1301, [www.tricountycrimestoppers.org](http://www.tricountycrimestoppers.org).

Troy Heck  
Benton County Sheriff