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From: Swisher, Kim
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2014

Contact: Chief Robert Brandenburg
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On March 3, 2014 at 2:24 p.m., the Lac du Flambeau Police Department received a report of a non-responsive subject at 514 Waswagon Street, Lac du Flambeau, Vilas County, Wisconsin.

Upon arrival, Officers made contact with the victim, a 54 year old female who was an unresponsive, pulse-less non-breather. Medical staff from Lac du Flambeau Ambulance Department and Howard Young Medical Center Ambulance Department attempted to revive the victim, but she was eventually pronounced dead at the scene.

The cause of death is pending toxicology results, and is believed to be a drug-related overdose. The victim's name is being withheld pending completion of the investigation.

On March 4, 2014, the Lac du Flambeau Police Department requested assistance from the State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. During the following days several search warrants were conducted, which led to six individuals being taken into custody for participating in the distribution of heroin on the Reservation.

Chief Robert Brandenburg would like to thank all of the personnel who participated in the response and investigation of the incident, including the ambulance crews from Lac du Flambeau and Howard Young Medical Center, as well as the NADGI (Native American Drug and Gang Initiative) and NORDEG (Northcentral Drug Enforcement Group).

"These investigations take a lot of resources, and can put a strain on departments of our size. We feel very lucky to have the ability to pick up the phone and request assistance from other agencies like the Wisconsin Department of Justice. They responded quickly with more than six investigators and a regional supervisor who worked with our staff for many hours," said Chief Brandenburg.

"We would also like to thank the Vilas County Sheriff's Department, the Vilas County Coroner's office and, most importantly, the Lac du Flambeau citizens that provided information and assistance in our investigations. The Lac du Flambeau Police Department and the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Government remain committed to stopping the infiltration of illegal drugs into our community," continued Chief Brandenburg.

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