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Bartow HAZMAT Responds to Apparent Suicide Scene

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Bartow County HAZMAT workers, in addition to other city and county emergency crews, were called Tuesday to a day use area on Lake Allatoona where a man had apparently committed suicide using hazardous chemicals. Around 12 p.m. Bartow County fire fighters, deputies and emergency medical workers responded to a call that a man was found by a park ranger sitting in a car at Cooper Branch Day Use Area No. 1 on Ga. 20 Spur. According to police scanner traffic, the man did not appear to be breathing.

In that car were two buckets containing a yellow substance.

"The car the Corp. of Engineers discovered had a note on the window that said, 'Caution,' and it had the chemical name on it," BCFD Bt. Chief David Levey said, adding that the substance was a mixture of chemicals including sulfuric acid.

"We made an entry with our HAZMAT team to see if the victim was able to be saved and to extract him from the vehicle," Levey said. "What we did after that was identify the chemical and contain it."

Levey said it appeared as if the man had mixed the chemicals in the back of the vehicle. He added that the cause of his death was likely exposure to the chemicals.

Bartow County Sheriff's Office Lt. Greg Clark said that based on evidence at the scene, the incident is thought to be a suicide. The victim's name was not been released.

Source: The Daily Tribune News (Cartersville, GA)