

Utah fugitive arrested in Pawnee County

(KLZA)-- The Pawnee County Sheriff's Office is continuing an investigation after responding to an initial report Saturday of a double-fatality crash at Ironhorse Trail Lake north of DuBois.

Upon arrival, authorities found two men lying in the middle of the road in front of a vehicle. Both men were alive and transported to the Pawnee City Hospital for excessive alcohol and drug consumption.

One man was identified at 41-year-old Ronald Nalepa from Utah. He is wanted in Utah on felony charges. He plead guilty to stabbing a man in Logan, Utah in 2020 and is also wanted on multiple other stabbings and assaults from Oregon, California, Nevada and Utah.

The identity of the second man has not been released.

Nalepa reportedly became combative with EMS and hospital staff during and after his initial transport. Once he was medically cleared, Nalepa was transported to Omaha to wait extradition to Utah on the original warrant.

Sheriff Braden Lang told MSC News it's possible more charges could be filed in the case. Damage at Iron Horse Trail Recreation area, a Nemaha NRD facility is being assessed.

According to a Facebook post from the Pawnee County Sheriff's Office, Nalepa told Law Enforcement that he “really likes the Pawnee County area and plans to move here once his prison term is up.” Nalepa was staying with friends in the area while hiding from Law Enforcement.

Many Signals Communications