

K9 Officer Adam Donnelly and partner MAX's first official call of duty.

On December 6, 2014 Officer Donnelly and MAX reported on duty and ready for calls. The duo was immediately dispatched to a call at 376 Hill Road in Franklin. The subject, Leland Leclerc, had assaulted family members and then fled from the scene of the crime. Family reported that Leclerc was likely under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and may have been contemplating suicide. Officers taking the report at the scene noticed footprints that led from the residence into a nearby wooded area. Officer Donnelly and K9 MAX went right to work.

An extensive search of the area was conducted with the assistance of Officer Gotthardt and Officer Rector. Putting all of his trust into his partner, Officer Donnelly followed MAX through treacherous conditions. Pouring rain, freezing temperatures, dense woods and waist high swamp water did not stop them. Once the scent was detected, the two never faltered. After approximately one and half miles were covered Mr. Leclerc was located and placed into custody. He appeared to be under the influence of alcohol, he was cold, exhausted and his clothes were soaking wet, but he was safe. Mr. Leclerc later reported that he was unfamiliar with the area and did not know where he was.

Leland Leclerc was charged with Simple Assault, Criminal Mischief and Obstructing the report of a crime. He was transported to the Franklin Regional Hospital for treatment and later transported to the Merrimack County Department of Corrections to await his arraignment.

Officer Donnelly and MAX were certified in tracking by the United States Police Canine Association just 12 days prior to this incident. This was their first call and their first success. Mr. Leclerc was located uninjured and all the residents of Franklin remained safe and in their warm beds. That's what the Franklin Police K9 program is all about. Congratulations to Officer Donnelly and MAX on a job well done.