

Troopers Search For Driver Of Abandoned Tractor Trailer

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(stjoechannel.com) Troopers from the Missouri State Highway Patrol are searching for the driver of a tractor trailer that was found Monday at a northwest Missouri truck stop.



The semi truck was found parked next to the trailer at Trex Mart near I-35 and Missouri 116 outside of Lathrop. Troopers searched the cabin of the truck and found the driver's wallet, cell phone, lap top and other personal items inside.

The company the driver was hauling for used GPS to track down the truck's location after the shipment never arrived to its destination. Lt. Eric Tilford said the driver, Mike Howell, 49, reported mechanical problems to the company, but they never heard from him after that. According to the Highway Patrol, surveillance video showed Howell at the truck stop on Sunday morning, but it was unclear where he went from there.

According to Lt. Tilford, Howell is from Huntsville, Texas, but his wife has not heard from him since Saturday.

Lt. Tilford said a plane was sent up Monday morning to scour the wooded area nearby. The plane searched a one mile radius around Trex Mart but nothing was found.

The Highway Patrol is unsure if he got a ride from someone else. At this time, they say it is too early to tell if any foul play was involved.

Howell's wife plans on filing a missing persons report in Texas. If you know of his whereabouts you are encouraged to call the Missouri State Highway Patrol.