

The autopsies of the five individuals found dead in Franklin County near Laurel began today at the Institute of Forensic Science in Indianapolis, IN. Four of the autopsies were completed and the fifth will take place tomorrow morning.

The Franklin County Coroner has decided not to release any information on the deceased until all the autopsies are completed and family members are notified. The crime scene is still being maintained and will be secured until the autopsies are completed.

At this time there is no person or persons of interest or suspect/suspects. We are continuing to follow numerous tips and leads and we are encouraging the public to continue contacting us with those tips and leads.

At approximately 1:23 PM on yesterday's date, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department received a call from people traveling near the address of 24015 Stipps Hill Road, near Laurel, stating they saw a small child wondering around in the roadway. The good Samaritans did not see any adults with the child so they stopped and stayed with the child until the police arrived. A deputy arrived and began talking to the small child and other neighbors in the area. After gaining more information he called for backup from other officers.

Troopers from the Indiana State Police Post at Versailles and an Indiana Conservation Officer arrived. When the officers arrived an immediate search of the area began and officers located the body of a dead male at the address of 24030 Stipps Hill Road. The bodies of four other people, 2 males and 2 females, were located at 24015 Stipps Hill Road. (These two addresses are across the road from each other in rural Franklin County).

At this time Indiana State Police Crime Scene Investigators, detectives from the Indiana State Police Post at Versailles and officers from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department are still trying to determine exactly what happened. It is unknown if there is one or multiple shooters. It is also unknown at this time if the shooter or shooters could be among the deceased.

Police would like to caution neighbors to be careful answering their doors and to report any suspicious activity immediately by calling 9-1-1 as investigators work to piece together what happened.

If anyone knows anything about this crime they are encouraged to contact detectives at the Indiana State Police Post at Versailles at 812-689-5000 or inside of Indiana at 1-800-566-6704. Callers can remain anonymous.