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Police officer's gun lost during snowstorm

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ATKINSON, N.H. - Police yesterday searched for a service revolver that an officer may have lost in a snowbank during this week's snowstorm.

"We were extremely busy with a lot of motor vehicle crashes. He was helping pull vehicles out of snow banks. It somehow fell out of his holster," Atkinson Police Lt. William Baldwin said last night, noting that the gun still had not been found.

Concerned that the weapon could be picked up by a child, authorities yesterday used the Timberlane Regional School District's "alert now system" to call the homes of school children and notify parents of the situation.

The message, which said the gun was believed to have been lost when the department was inundated with calls for help during Thursday's storm, told residents that an officer lost the firearm while pushing vehicles out of snowbanks. It went on to say that parents should talk to their children about gun safety.

"It's an unfortunate situation," Baldwin said.

Several residents along Island Pond Road said they saw police searching their neighborhood yesterday. It wasn't clear whether the search might have included other neighborhoods.