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tubing accident on Poudre

Maximillian Lopez, 18, of Kirkland, Washington, died Sunday on the Poudre River

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The Larimer County Coroner's office has released the name of the Seattle-area teen killed in a weekend tubing accident on the Poudre River.

Maximillian Lopez, 18, drowned Sunday evening after going over a low-head dam while he and his 16-year-old companion were tubing the river in the Watson Lake area of the river near Bellvue.

Maximillian Lopez lived in Kirkland, Wash., about 16 miles northeast of Seattle. His grandfather, Raul Lopez, said the teenager, who went by Max, was visiting him. They had plans to get Max a driver's license.

"Nobody should have to go through what I'm going through," he said.

The 16-year-old, who Raul identified as Max's cousin, was rescued about 100 yards upstream from where rescuers found Max. He was hospitalized at Poudre Valley Hospital but was able to speak when firefighters got to him.

Raul said he wanted to thank first responders for their work.

"Without them we would be burying two coffins instead of one," he said. "I just want to thank everybody for doing their jobs."

The teens were knocked into the river after passing over a low-head dam, which are difficult to spot upstream and can quickly push people underwater and spin them around, making it easy to get disoriented and hard to swim to the surface.

Raul said he wants to get a remembrance plaque and warning in place before the dam to prevent future deaths.

Poudre Fire Authority Battalion Chief Brandon Garcia said there are efforts to get warning signs or buoys in place before low-head dams, but that Colorado currently has no state regulations regarding the dams.

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mouth, near where the teens hit the dam, and the water temperature was about 50 degrees. Neither tuber was wearing a personal flotation device.

Lopez's was the first death of the season on the river.

Check back for updates throughout the day on this developing story. Follow reporter Alicia Stice on Twitter @AliciaStice. Follow reporter Sarah Jane Kyle on Twitter @sarahjanekyle.