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Kayaker Charles M. Orgovan dies at Corunna dam

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CORUNNA, Michigan -- A 32-year-old Owosso man died Thursday after he attempted to kayak over the Corunna dam. Police said Charles M. Orgovan had taken his kayak on the Shiawassee River about 4 p.m. with the intentions of going over the dam.

As he approached the dam, high currents flipped his boat and took him under the water, said Corunna Police Chief Kim Williams.

Emergency crews were unable to reach Orgovan for several minutes because of the current.

When he was pulled from the water, he was unresponsive, Williams said. Orgovan was

pronounced dead at a local hospital a short time later.

"It's just a tragedy," Williams said. "It's dangerous. He went right into the undertow."

Williams said Orgovan was an avid kayaker, although he was unsure if the man had gone over the dam before.

The last drowning Williams remembers at the dam was more than 40 years ago.

He cautioned boaters to avoid the dam.

"People don't realize how powerful (the dams) are," he said. "There are spots there if you get in there, it's all over."

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