

A look at deaths near submerged dams in Virginia

By The Associated Press
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Since the 1950s, at least 441 people have died at 235 submerged dams in 38 states. About half of those deaths occurred in the past 15 years - a period when many cities have sought to repurpose their rivers into picturesque attractions that would draw tourists and shoppers to business districts. The total includes 12 deaths in Virginia.

A look at recorded deaths from low-head dams in Virginia, according to researchers at Brigham Young University.

Front Royal - Riverton Dam

June 30, 2010

Fatalities: 1

A 9-year-old boy drowned after falling into the river while playing with two cousins.

Richmond - Boshier Dam just west of Edward E Willey Memorial Bridge

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Fatalities: 1

Three men paddled a canoe over the dam when one of them became caught in the dam's hydraulics and drowned.

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Danville - Brantley Dam

April 2010

Fatalities: 1

A 5-year-old drowned when a boat capsized and the boy was carried to the dam and trapped in the undertow.

Front Royal - Riverton Dam

April 7, 2010

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Fatalities: 1

A man was kayaking with one other person when he approached the dam and became entrapped by the hydraulics. He drowned before rescue teams could save him.

Rocky Mount - Blackwater River Dam

July 23, 2009

Fatalities: 1

Two couples in canoes went over a dam. Both canoes capsized. A woman became stuck in the hydraulics and drowned.

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Rocky Mount - Blackwater River Dam

June 6, 2009

Fatalities: 1

A man became trapped in a hydraulic at a low-head dam. The victim was a skilled paddler and was wearing his life vest.

Richmond - Dam near Williams Island

May 30, 2009

Fatalities: 1

A man was swimming with some friends in the James River when he vanished. His body was found in the dam.

Lexington - Maury River Dam by Jordan's Point Park

April 25, 2006

Fatalities: 1

A high school student drowned at the dam while swimming

Richmond - Dam near Williams Island

April 9, 2005

Fatalities: 1

Three men in a canoe paddled over a low-head dam at high water in the James River. One got caught in the hydraulic and drowned. The other two survived.

Keswick - Woolen Mills Dam

July 4, 2003

Fatalities: 1

A man fell over the dam and drowned. His body was found two days later about a mile downstream.

Front Royal - Riverton Dam

May 19, 2002

Fatalities: 1

A man drowned after his boat overturned while he was fishing near the dam.

Richmond - Dam near Williams Island

April 6, 1990

Fatalities: 1

Two boys canoeing in the James River decided to try to go over the Williams Island Dam. The current pulled their canoe sideways and swamped it, pulling the boys underwater. One of the boys drowned.

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