# A look at deaths near submerged dams in Maryland

By The Associated Press Associated Press Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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 14 deaths in Maryland.
A look at recorded deaths from low-head dams in Maryland:
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Ellicott City - Bloede's Dam in Patapsco Valley State Park
Aug. 4, 2013
Fatalities: 1
Description: A man was swimming with his friends when he started walking to shore to grab his flip flops. His friends last saw him between some rocks near the low head dam. His body was found the next day.
July 20, 2008
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Fatalities: 1
Description: A man was found dead of apparent drowning at the dam.
July 3, 2006
Fatalities: 1
Description: A 16-year-old drowned in the Avalon area of the Patapsco Valley State Park below Bloede's Dam, in an area where authorities say swimming is prohibited.

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June 2005

Fatalities: 1

Description: A 28-year-old man was sucked under the dam after deciding to wade in and cool off while picnicking and fishing.

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Ellicott City - Union Dam by Baltimore National Pike

July 9, 2003

Fatalities: 1

Description: Swimmer drowns after jumping into the water next to the Union Dam in Patapsco Valley State Park.

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Fatalities: 2

Description: A couple was rafting the river after heavy rains when they went over the eight foot dam. They were immediately caught by the hydraulic. No personal floatation devices were worn.

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Glen Echo - Little Falls Dam near Sangamore Local Park

June 21, 2009

Fatalities: 2

Description: Group of 6 people swimming in the Potomac River, 2 of them drowned and were found a few days later.

April 25, 2003

Fatalities: 1

Description: A man and three children were canoeing in the Potomac River when the canoe capsized. None were wearing floating devices. Two swam to shore, one was rescued from a rocky mid-river outcrop, and the fourth, one of the children, couldn't be found.

May 5, 1984

Fatalities: 3

Description: A group of six of the local infantry were going to run the Potomac River as a recreational activity. Higher than normal water levels had caused an even bigger hydraulic off of the Little Falls Dam. They had "horse collar" life vests that came off during the incident. A helicopter rescue was implemented and only a few were saved due to the lack of strength of the others to grab ahold. The dam has since been retrofitted after the tragic incident.

Hagerstown - Antietam Creek Dam

April 22, 1998

Fatalities: 1

Description: Man fishing jumped into the water to save his dog and ended up drowning.

Source: Brigham Young University database

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