



Accident Database

Report ID# 3325

Help

2010-03-22

Date

Wesley Wood

Victim

17

Victim Age

Shoal Creek

River

Allen Bridge to Lime Kiln Park

Section

Low-head Dam United States Missouri, US

Location

Gage

Water Level

River Difficulty

Caught in Low Head Dam Hydraulic

Cause

Cause Code(s)

– Caught in Low Head Dam Hydraulic

Injury Type(s)

Factors

– One Boat Trip

Private

Trip Type

Open Canoe

Boat Type

Group Info

Other Victim Names

Reported

Status

Accident Description

One dead, another rescued in canoeing accident

By John Ford

Neosho Daily News

Posted Mar 23, 2010

Neosho, Mo. — A canoeing accident has left a Diamond teen-ager dead, while another was rescued from the chilly waters of Shoal Creek Monday evening. Two teens, Wesley Wood, 17, and Houston Lietzke, 19, were canoeing from Allen Bridge to Lime Kiln Park Monday when the incident took place. According to Greg Hickman, Neosho fire chief, the men were swept downstream to a dam, where strong undertows pulled them beneath the chilly water's surface.

Firefighters were called to the scene at 6:24 p.m., arriving there for minutes later. "On arrival, we found one individual trapped by the water going over the dam, and the other person was not visible," Hickman said. "Crews worked to get over to the individual and were able to get a line to them and help him get out of the water." That person was Lietzke, who was treated for hypothermia at Freeman Neosho Hospital. Crews had to bridge between 50- and 75-feet of distance to reach Lietzke.

Hickman said firefighters called the Newton County Dive Rescue Team to assist, who found Wood trapped in brush downstream from the dam. He was taken to Joplin's Freeman West Hospital, and was pronounced dead on arrival.

"The first person removed from the water was treated for hypothermia," Hickman said. Speaking about Wood, Hickman added: "Sometimes, in water that cold, there is a chance of survivability, but not in this case."

It is estimated that Lietzke was in the water for at least 20 minutes.

Hickman said the men were either trying to cross the dam in their canoe, or were trying to load the craft into a truck when it got away from them and they went to retrieve it.

Diamond, MO teen drowns on canoe trip

By Kyle Bosch

Story Created: Mar 23, 2010 at 9:39 AM CDT

Neosho police were called to Lime Kiln Park Monday night for a water rescue. Investigators say brothers Wesley Wood, 17, and Houston Lietzke, 19, from the Diamond area had been canoeing on Shoal Creek. The teens were getting ready to load the canoe in a truck when it started to float away. While chasing after it they

were swept over a dam by the strong current and pulled underwater on the downstream side.

Fire Department rescue crews got a rope to Lietzke and pulled him to safety. Wood was also pulled from the water, but he was pronounced dead at the hospital.



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