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Boy Scout Dies In Rafting Accident (NM)

[KOAT.com](#) ^ | July 2, 2005

Posted on 7/2/2005, 10:01:34 AM by [Sweet_Sunflower29](#)

A Boy Scout died Thursday in a rafting accident in the Animas River.

State police said Chase Hathenbruck, 15, of Farmington, N.M., died when he, a scout master and four other boys got their raft trapped in the churning waters of a diversion dam for the Farmington Pump Station on Penny Lane near Flora Vista.

Hathenbruck and a 14-year-old boy who was not identified fell out of the raft, ripping off Hathenbruck's personal floatation device. The 14-year-old swam to shore. The remaining three scouts and scout master remained in the raft and were caught in the churning waters of the upward current, and they lost contact with Hathenbruck.

Scoutmaster David Stock, who was in a smaller raft that made it through the diversion dam, recognized that he would not be able to rescue the scouts from the currents of the dam and called 911.

Responders from the state police, Farmington Fire Department, San Juan County Sheriff's Department, San Juan County Fire Department and Valley Volunteer Fire Department began search and rescue efforts. Various types of water craft were utilized to rescue the scouts trapped on the raft from the churning waters. Helicopters also responded to assist with the rescue mission.

At about 1 p.m., Hathenbruck's body was discovered in the Animas River near the Murray Bridge about five miles downstream from where he originally entered the water.

The other four Boy Scouts and scout master from the larger raft received minor injuries and were transported to San Juan County Regional Hospital in Farmington.

Hathenbruck's family said they will hold a memorial in Farmington before burying Chase in Utah.

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1 posted on 7/2/2005, 10:01:34 AM by [Sweet_Sunflower29](#)

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To: [Sweet_Sunflower29](#)

How sad. My sympathies to everyone involved. (Just got my own Boy Scout home from camp today, with no damage but mosquito bites.)

2 posted on 7/2/2005, 10:04:40 AM by [Tax-chick](#) ("I am saying that the government's complicity is dishonest and disingenuous."
~NCSteve)

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To: [Sweet_Sunflower29](#)

My parents live on a bluff overlooking this area. How sad.

[Damned If I Know](#)

3 posted on 7/2/2005, 10:05:15 AM by **sharktrager** (My life is like a box of chocolates, but someone took all the good ones.)
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To: **Sweet_Sunflower29**

Geez, the boyscout safety handbook needs an overhaul.

4 posted on 7/2/2005, 10:06:53 AM by **SouthernFreebird**
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To: **SouthernFreebird**

The handbook is fine. People just don't follow it. The fact that this boy's PFD came off just about proves that it wasn't worn correctly.

5 posted on 7/2/2005, 10:09:32 AM by **Tax-chick** ("I am saying that the government's complicity is dishonest and disingenuous."
~NCSteve)
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To: **Tax-chick**

"The handbook is fine. People just don't follow it. The fact that this boy's PFD came off just about proves that it wasn't worn correctly."

Yes, the boy was just being another teenage boy who thinks he is indestructible and hadn't clasped his pfd. But from the looks of it he might not have survived that soaking anyway. It sounds as if they hadn't intended on going through those rapids. The fact that they were so close is the fault of the Scoutmaster and his leaders, and whatever river guides they had with them.

6 posted on 7/2/2005, 10:37:38 AM by **tom h**
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