



Accident Database

Report ID# 673

Help

2000-07-03

Date

James Gentz

Victim

0

Victim Age

Clinton River

River

Near Pontiac

Section

Yates Cider Mill dam United States Michigan, US

Location

Gage

High

Water Level

N/A

River Difficulty



Cause Code(s)

- Caught in Low Head Dam Hydraulic

Injury Type(s)

- Does not Apply

Factors

- Inexperience

Inexperienced

Victim Experience Level

Private

Trip Type

Kayak - Other

Boat Type

Group Info

Other Victim Names

Reported

Status

Accident Description

On 4th of July weekend the Macomb, Michigan Daily reported that three kayak accidents occurred on the nearby Clinton River, which was running high due to recent rains. All involved inexperienced people in rented boats.

On July 3rd James Gentz, 56, drowned after attempting to run a low head dam at the Yates Cider Mill near Oakland, Michigan. There was a fatality at this spot in 1999, but despite this tragedy no portage paths or new warning signs were visible. According to local paddlers posting to



The Oakland, Michigan Free Press reported that the popularity of kayaking on the Clinton River has grown a lot during the past few years. Many stores near the river rent kayaks for \$10 per hour. Because of changing water levels, these operations may need to develop a policy to cut off rentals when the river becomes too high. Potential renters also need to become more aware of the dangers they'll encounter when paddling rivers.



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