



# Accident Database

## Report ID# 422

Help

1996-06-15

Date

James Schiro

Victim

0

Victim Age

Vermillion River

River

Section

Low head dam with a runnable fish ladder United States Illinois, US

Location

Gage

Medium

Water Level

N/A

River Difficulty



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**Cause Code(s)**

- Caught in Low Head Dam Hydraulic
- PFD Not Worn or Present

**Injury Type(s)**

- Does not Apply

**Factors**

- Inexperience

Inexperienced

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Victim Experience Level

Commercial

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Trip Type

Raft

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Boat Type

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Group Info

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Other Victim Names

Reported

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Status

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## Accident Description

DESCRIPTION: On June 15, 1996 six rental rafts encountered a low-head dam on the Vermilion River in Illinois. The group was planning to run the fish ladder on river right. One raft, containing two men, did not get over there in time. They went over the five-foot drop sideways and were caught in the hydraulic. One man, who was wearing a PFD, washed out. He was cut and beaten by rebar and debris below the dam. The other man, James Schiro, was not wearing his PFD. He disappeared. His brother obtained permission to drop dynamite into the hydraulic to release the body, but this was not successful. The body was found three days later, many miles downstream.



inexperienced floaters who do not recognize the danger that dams pose.

On June 15 a guided raft trip encountered a low-head dam on the Vermillion River in Illinois. The Chicago Whitewater Association newsletter "The Gradient" reports that the group was told to run the fish ladder on river right. One raft, containing two men, did not get over there in time. They went over the five-foot drop sideways and were caught in the hydraulic. One man, who was wearing a PFD, washed out. He was cut and beaten by rebar and debris below the dam. The other man, James Schiro, was not using a PFD. He disappeared. His brother obtained permission to drop dynamite into the hydraulic to release the body, but this was not successful. The body was found three days later, over two miles downstream.



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## River Info



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