

STATE

One man dead after Burlington boating incident

Early Saturday morning search leads to discovery of body after two-person boat capsized; other man survived

Marcus Clem

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A boating incident near the Burlington City Dam on the east side of Burlington resulted in the death of one man.

The Coffey County Sheriff's Office said a 911 call at 7:30 p.m. Friday reported the capsizing of a small boat on the Neosho River. John "Scott" Massoth survived the incident unharmed, but Michael "Mike" Myers didn't turn up before police suspended the rescue operation amid "unsafe conditions." Both men are age 53 and are from Burlington.

A law enforcement officer with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism discovered Myers' body shortly after the search resumed Saturday morning.

"It is so unfortunate and tragic when a boating accident of this type occurs in one of our communities," Coffey County Sheriff Randy Rogers said in the news release. "So many people are affected by it. First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers go out to the victim, his family, friend and those in the community affected by this accident.

"I can't thank all those emergency responders (enough) that responded to this incident and worked so hard," he added. "We had hoped and prayed for a more positive outcome and that we could rescue both occupants of the boat."

The Coffey County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the KDWP, Coffey County Fire District No. 1, the Burlington Fire Department, Burlington Police Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, Coffey County EMS, Coffey County Emergency Management and area residents.