

Crews recover body from Duck River during search for missing 9-year-old boy

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SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. — Emergency crews on Thursday recovered a body believed to be that of a missing 9-year-old boy swept away in a Middle Tennessee river this week.

Bedford County Emergency Management Agency's Scott Johnson said rescue crews discovered the body at 2:34

p.m. in the Halls Mills area of the Duck River near an old factory. A team on a boat found the body near a tree about 3 miles west of Fisherman's Park, where the missing boy disappeared July 4.

Authorities say Dreyton Sims was swept downstream that afternoon while swimming with his 11-year-old brother in a portion of the river in Shelbyville, the

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HELEN COMER/DNJ

The site on the Duck River in Shelbyville, Tenn. where rescue workers look for Dreyton Sims on Wednesday, in Shelbyville, Tenn., the day after he went missing.

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county's largest city, located about 60 miles south of Nashville. A bystander was able to pull Dreyton's brother out of the water but could not get to Dreyton, who was reportedly not wearing a life vest.

Crews on Thursday had been searching the riverbanks as well as the water as part of the recovery effort.

"It was just a very difficult situation because of the swiftness of the water and debris in the water," Johnson said during a 4 p.m. news conference in Shelbyville.

Positive identification by a medical examiner had not yet been made on the body, but Johnson said officials believe it is the missing boy.

Shelbyville Police Chief Jan Phillips, whose agency assisted in the search, said conditions had been worsened by rising waters as a result of water being let out of the Normandy dam.

"It came up about two feet this morning so they (hadn't) been able to do a lot of searching," Phillips said early Thursday afternoon.

Other agencies on scene conducting the search included the Bedford County Sheriff's Office, Bedford County EMS and Coffee County EMS.

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