

# Local lakes and rivers take 4 lives

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Among the dozen or so signs warning of danger near the Glen D. Palmer Dam, on the Fox River in southwest suburban Yorkville, is one that lists the dates of nine drownings at the site.

But year after year, eager fishermen fail to heed the warnings. Unlucky ones fall victim to a dangerous circular current that draws them into the river with such force that escaping is almost impossible.

Over the weekend, 39-year-old Francisco Torres of Chicago's Southwest Side became the river's latest victim, and the first to die at the spot this year, police said.

Torres was one of four people who died on Chicago-area waterways over the weekend.

At the dam in Yorkville, "there have been a dozen deaths over the last 20 years," said Lt. Tom Barna of the Yorkville Police Department. The sign listing the dates of the drownings hasn't been updated since 1984, he added.

"There's approximately a dozen signs in both English and Spanish," Barna said. "Every time there's a coronor's inquest, we're asked to put up signs. All we can do is warn people."

Torres, who was fishing with his brother on Saturday, was wading in thigh-high water just two feet from the current that is produced by the dam. The signs warn fishermen to remain at least 15 feet from the current.

Torres' brother, too, was briefly swept up in the current, but he managed to pull himself out of the water unharmed, police said. Torres was in the water for about 30 minutes before his body was pulled out by Fire Department water rescuers. He was pronounced dead on the scene by a deputy Kendall County coroner.