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FEATURED

Three drown floating the Snake River near Fun Farm Bridge

LISA SMITH Rexburg Standard Journal
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A float trip down the Henry's Fork of the Snake River near Fun Farm Bridge ended in tragedy Sunday afternoon after three people drowned.

The three victims were in their 20s and were part of a group of six people. They were floating in a rubber raft when it became trapped downstream of the diversion dam, said Fremont County Sheriff Len Humphries.

Fremont County's 911 Dispatch received a call for help from the group around 2 p.m., he said.

"They went over the diversion dam," he said. "There's a tremendous amount of turbulence on the downstream side, and it's hard to get out of. They get trapped. (The turbulence) grabs them and keeps them under there. They get caught in that undertow and can't get out of it."

The three victims were from Rexburg, Idaho Falls and Blackfoot. Their names have not yet been released waiting for notification of next-of-kin.

Humphries said there are no warning signs about floating that section of the Snake River nor are there warning signs about the diversion dams. He cautioned those recreating on the waterways to make sure they know the dangers involved in floating on any river. Humphries also urged them to wear life jackets.

"I would encourage everyone who is going to play in the rivers to learn about them before they get on them. Wear personal floating devices when they do and to stay away from the diversion dams," he said. "I would just encourage everyone to be careful."

In addition to Fremont County Deputies, Fremont County Search and Rescue, Madison Search and Rescue, St. Anthony Police and Rexburg Police also helped in the rescue and recovery efforts.