



Sheriff Troy J. Knudson
ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Barbara J. Tillman, Chief Deputy



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MEDIA RELEASE

Water Rescue on the Yahara River

For Immediate Release

Saturday, May 25, 2019

Case #: SO1928349

Contact Person

Sergeant Pete Falk

(608) 757-7917

On Saturday, May 25, 2019, at 2:53 p.m., Rock County Sheriff's Office Deputies were dispatched to the Murwin Park area on W. Caledonia Road and N. CTH H in Fulton Township for a report of overturned canoes with people in the water. A Wisconsin State Patrol Trooper, Wisconsin DNR Wardens, and Edgerton Fire EMS also responded. Members of the Rock County Sheriff's Office Rescue Team, the Janesville Fire Department, MD-1, and the Town of Beloit Fire Department also assisted at the scene.

Upon arrival, law enforcement and fire personnel entered the Yahara River to rescue multiple people, who were clinging to logs and yelling for help. Four canoes were overturned in the water. The water was fast moving with a strong current. Personnel got seven individuals safely out of the water. Lifesaving efforts were administered to another individual, who was pinned under a submerged log. That individual was extracted from the water and transported to a local hospital.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office cautions the public against canoeing, kayaking, or other paddle sports on the Yahara River, Badfish Creek, Turtle Creek, and Sugar River at this time due to the high waters and extremely swift current. Rock County Sheriff's Office also recommends people participating in paddle sports wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life vest or flotation device with a buckle or zipper that is the proper size for the intended wearer.

*****UPDATE*****

The subject who was trapped under the water was later pronounced dead at the hospital. More information will be released in a future press release.

Troy J. Knudson
Sheriff

By: Chief Deputy Barbara Tillman
Rock County Sheriff's Office

