



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Mims, Sheriff
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Busy Water Weekend For Boating Enforcement Unit

With approximately one month left in the summer boating season, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims is again reminding the public to always use caution when playing in and around all Fresno County waterways, and to wear a personal floatation device while in the water.

This warning stems from the numerous water related incidents that have occurred recently.

On Friday, a 27 year old Fresno man drowned after being swept into the Kings River while wading near Winton Park.

Also on Friday, the body of a 44 year old San Jose man was recovered from Huntington Lake. The man had fallen into the lake on July 13th, after his boat capsized. The subject had not been wearing a life jacket. Two other subjects that survived the accident had been wearing life jackets.

This past weekend, the Boating Enforcement Unit performed 22 water related rescues on the Kings River. 13 rescues were performed on Saturday and 9 more on Sunday. Almost all of the subjects rescued were not wearing life jackets or vests.

This year to date, there have been 5 deaths attributed to drowning or boating accidents. Last year there were 9 total deaths attributed to drowning or boating accidents.

Each year the Sheriff's Department responds to numerous water rescues situations in the rivers and lakes of Fresno County.

Sheriff's Department personnel are trained in a variety of water rescue situations. The Sheriff's Department does not encourage anyone to attempt to affect rescues on their own. The public is reminded that should someone in the water need assistance to immediately call 911, or the Sheriff's Department at 488-3111.

FOR MEDIA: Members of the department's Search & Rescue and Boating Enforcement Units will be training in advanced swift water rescue techniques on Tuesday, July 31st at 3:00 pm. The training will take place on DeWolf north of Mckinley.

Members of the media are invited to observe. For further information, please Contact Sgt. Kathy Curtice at 488-3924 or 250-0456.