

NEWS RELEASE



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CASE NUMBER: 2008-3641

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: May 17, 2008 – 2:34 PM

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: May 17, 2008 – 5:00 PM

NATURE OF STORY: Boating Accident/ Water Rescue

LOCATION: McKenzie River at I-5 (Armitage Park)

**INVOLVED: One adult male, one adult female, and
a 1-year-old female**

DETAILS: The three above individuals were involved in a water rescue / boating accident on the McKenzie River at the construction site of the I-5 bridge. The three were in an inflatable raft that became entrapped in the construction girders north of the main channel and overturned. Bystanders on shore rescued the child while the two adults were able to self rescue prior to water rescue responders arriving.

A number of subjects who were known to have assisted in the rescue were unaccounted for and an additional search of the river and park area was conducted until follow-up investigation located all subjects on shore.

The child was wearing a PFD while the two adults were not.

As a note: Water levels are high with swift currents that make controlling various floatation devises difficult. Boaters should be advised and aware of the

construction at I-5 and the McKenzie River. Snow melt is also contributing to cold water conditions and potential hypothermia which is compounded if persons are consuming alcohol. Assisting Lane County Sheriff's SAR was Eugene Fire, Springfield Fire and Coburg Fire.

For additional information contact:

John Miller, Search and Rescue coordinator at (541) 682-8544

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