

NEWS RELEASE



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DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 07-13-07 6:05 pm

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 07-13-07 10:20 pm

NATURE OF STORY: Boat Crash

LOCATION: Fern Ridge Reservoir

DETAILS:

Lane County Sheriff's deputies were called to the waters of Fern Ridge Reservoir off Richardson Park at approximately 6:00 pm on 07-13-07, in response to a report of a woman caught in the propeller of a boat on the lake. Investigation by the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol revealed that a woman, 31 year old Theresa Myers of Eugene had been a passenger in a boat operated by her husband, 44 year old Michael Myers.

Preliminary information indicates that Michael Myers lost control of the boat, and Theresa Myers was thrown out. As he tried to go to his wife's aid, Michael Myers fell overboard as well. The boat, still running, ran over Theresa Myers, with the propeller winding around her clothing, pinning her to the motor, partially underwater. Her husband swam to her, and was able to disconnect the fuel line from the motor which stopped the engine a few seconds later. Another boater, off-duty Sheriff's Sergeant Barney Pound, having seen part of the incident came to their aid. Michele Pound jumped into the water and cut Myers free. The Pound's then transported both Theresa and Michael Myers to a nearby boat ramp, where Lane Rural Fire medics were waiting. Theresa was transported to a local hospital with injuries that were not believed to be life threatening.

Alcohol was not a factor in this incident. Neither Theresa nor Michael were wearing their life jacket at the time of the mishap. The boat, an older model Starcraft runabout, was only marginally seaworthy. The Lane County Sheriff's Office wishes to again caution boaters and anyone who recreates on or near the water to use caution and wear their life jackets.

Prepared by: Lt. William Thompson