
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



CASE NUMBER: 10-6425
DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 09/05/2010 – 3:59 pm
DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 09/07/2010 – 5:05 pm
NATURE OF STORY: Water Rescue / Drowning
LOCATION: McKenzie River – near 53214 McKenzie Highway
DECEASED: Lee, Autumn – Age 33 – from Salem, OR

DETAILS:

The Lane County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol along with McKenzie Fire and Springfield medics responded to a report of a water rescue of multiple persons entangled in a log in the McKenzie River. CPR was in progress for one of the persons.

All involved persons were either rescued by other members of their party or self-rescued. They were all part of a group of rafters and inflatable kayakers on a trip from Paradise Campground to Forest Glen Park on the McKenzie River.

One of the kayakers became entangled in a downed tree in the river. Other passengers in a raft just behind the kayaker stopped paddling and all went to the right side of the raft, ignoring the direction of the guide to remain seated and keep paddling. With all of the weight on one side of the raft, it quickly overturned placing all the occupants into the cold water. All the occupants were washed downstream except for Lee, who was caught on the log.

Several initial attempts to free Lee failed, and during some of that time she was submerged. When she was finally freed, CPR was started at the river bank and EMS was notified. Medics resuscitated Lee and she was taken to RiverBend Hospital for further treatment.

At 11:45 am 9/6/10 Lee was pronounced deceased as a result of drowning.

Prepared by: Sergeant Doug Osborne