

02-24-2021 Jason Lagore – Ohio – Officer – Heart Attack

Natural Resources Officer Jason Lagore

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/25150-natural-resources-officer-jason-lagore>

Natural Resources Officer Jason Lagore

Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of State Parks and Watercraft, Ohio

End of Watch Tuesday, February 23, 2021

JASON LAGORE

Natural Resources Officer Jason Lagore died after suffering a medical emergency while conducting a search for a juvenile who had fallen through the ice at Rocky Fork Lake at Rocky Fork State Park.

Two juveniles had fallen through the ice but one was able to get to shore. Officer Lagore and other first responders were searching for the other juvenile when he suffered a medical emergency. He was transported Highland District Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The second juvenile was recovered from the water a short time later and also pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Officer Lagore had served with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of State Parks and Watercraft for 15 years. He is survived by his wife and two young sons.

BIO

- **Age** 36
- **Tour** 15 years
- **Badge** Not available

INCIDENT DETAILS

- **Cause** Duty related illness



NATURAL RESOURCE OFFICER JASON LAGORE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/news/Natural-Resource-Officer-Died-in-Line-of-Duty>

FEBRUARY 24, 2021



COLUMBUS, Ohio – It is with deep regret that the announcement is made of the death of Natural Resource Officer Jason Lagore who died while responding to a call at Rocky Fork State Park on February 23, 2021.

“Our hearts are with the family and loved ones of Officer Jason Lagore, who died in the line of duty last night,” said Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Mary Mertz. “Our law enforcement officers and their families carry a unique and challenging burden of responsibilities, and we are deeply grateful for their service.”

Officer Lagore was responding to a call at Rocky Fork State Park in Highland County just before 6:30 p.m. on reports that two people had fallen through the ice near the North Shore boat docks. During the search, Officer Lagore suffered a medical emergency and was taken to Highland District Hospital in Hillsboro, Ohio, where he was pronounced deceased.

A 13-year-old male who fell through the ice was able to get out of the water. He was taken to the hospital in stable condition. The second victim, a 16-year-old female, was recovered by divers unresponsive. She was transported to the hospital but was later pronounced deceased. ODNR is leading the ongoing investigation into the incident.

Officer Lagore was a dedicated officer, having served 15 years with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He was responsible for the first ODNR K-9 academy, led the Division of Parks and Watercraft K-9 training program, and was well respected across the state for his expertise working with K-9s.

When he wasn't proudly serving ODNR, Officer Lagore enjoyed deer and turkey hunting, loved history, and enjoyed vacations with his family. Officer Lagore is survived by his wife Michelle, his two young sons, and his K-9 partner, Sarge.

We ask that the privacy of Officer Lagore's family be respected during this time.

Odnr Officer Who Died In Rescue Effort At Rocky Fork State Park Led K-9 Watercraft Training

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2021/02/24/rocky-fork-state-park-ohio-teen-dead-another-injured-after-falling-through-ice/4572181001/>

February 24, 2021 **Chris Mayhew** Cincinnati Enquirer



An Ohio Department of Natural Resources officer died from a medical emergency Wednesday morning after an attempted lake rescue in a state park in Highland County.

A 16-year-old girl died after falling through the ice Tuesday evening into the water at Rocky Fork State Park, and a 13-year-old boy was hospitalized.

The ODNR identified the officer as Jason Lagore.

The park is about 64 miles northeast of downtown Cincinnati.

Archives: Jason Lagore demonstrates Ohio's K-9 unit trained to find submerged bodies

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered the U.S. and Ohio state flags be flown at half staff in honor of the officer at locations including the statehouse and at public buildings throughout Highland County. The flags will remain lowered until sunset on the day of Lagore's funeral.

The officer, with 15 years at the department, died at Highland District Hospital in Hillsboro, according to a release. Details about his medical condition were not provided.



He led the division of parks and watercraft K-9 training program for ODNr where dogs are used to sniff out scents over the water. Lagore was described as a lifelong dog lover assigned to the department's Southwest Ohio Park and Watercraft District, according to a 2017 Columbus Dispatch story.

Lagore is survived by his wife Michelle, his two young sons, and his K-9 partner, Sarge. He enjoyed history, vacations with family, and deer and turkey hunting. Attorney General Dave Yost lauded Lagore's efforts in a release.

"Officer Lagore acted with extreme courage to go to the rescue of these two kids; his example demonstrates the very highest valor," Yost said.

Yost said he extended his deepest sympathies to the family of the girl who died, and to Lagore's family.



Officers responded at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday to the park on a report of two people who fell through the ice into the lake.

The 16-year-old girl was unresponsive when recovered by divers, according to the release.

The 13-year-old boy tried unsuccessfully to locate the girl before he freed himself from the ice and water, authorities said. The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment of hypothermia. His condition was not known.

Updated: 1 Of 2 Teens Dies At Rocky Fork Lake; Odnr Officer Suffers Fatal Medical Event

<https://www.wnewsj.com/news/159982/1-of-2-people-dead-that-fell-through-ice-at-rocky-fork-lake-odnr-officer-also-suffers-fatal-medical-event>

FEBRUARY 24, 2021 BY WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

ODNR - Memorial Fund for family

Ohio Natural Resources Officers Lodge 149 has organized a memorial fundraiser for his family at <https://www.unit2.org/jasonlagorek9>.

HIGHLAND CO. — A 16-year-old girl who fell through the ice at Rocky Fork Lake is dead, and an Ohio Department of Natural Resources officer who responded suffered a fatal medical event.

At approximately 6:26 p.m. Tuesday, the Paint Creek Joint EMS & Fire District in the Highland County Rainsboro station was dispatched to the area of South Lakeshore Drive for two subjects that had fallen through the ice and were in immediate peril.

The male, age 13, was able to self-rescue from the ice and water; he was transported by ground to Highland District Hospital with hypothermia present, according to a news release Wednesday morning from the Paint Creek EMS & Fire District.

Divers from Task Force 1 from Hamilton County and Franklin County Sheriff's office were requested to the scene as the female could not be located.

At approximately 10:47 p.m., the divers located a point of interest on their sonar equipment and divers entered the 36-degree water at 10:53 p.m. The girl's body was removed from the water at 11 p.m. Her name has not yet been released.

She was transported to Highland District Hospital with life-saving treatment being administered. She had been under the ice too long and was unable to be resuscitated, and was pronounced dead.

During the initial phases of this rescue, an officer with Ohio Division of Natural Resources suffered a medical emergency at the scene and was transferred to HDH with life-saving treatment being administered.

It is with heavy hearts that we report that he also was unable to be resuscitated, Paint Creek Joint EMS & Fire reported.

Officer Lagore

The officer who died while working the scene, Jason Lagore, was a 15-year veteran of the ODNR, the agency stated. He was based at Caesar Creek Lake State Park in Warren County and resided in Clinton County.

The ODNR website stated: "Officer Lagore was a dedicated officer, having served 15 years with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He was responsible for the



ODNR Officer Jason Lagore, who died while responding to the incident at Rocky Fork Lake, is pictured with his K-9 partner, Sarge.

first ODNR K-9 academy, led the Division of Parks and Watercraft K-9 training program, and was well respected across the state for his expertise working with K-9s.

“When he wasn’t proudly serving ODNR, Officer Lagore enjoyed deer and turkey hunting, loved history, and enjoyed vacations with his family.”

The ODNR stated that Lagore is survived by his wife Michelle, his two young sons, and his K-9 partner, Sarge.

Responders

Paint Creek Joint EMS & Fire District stated “This was a concerted effort with no less than 10 different agencies assisting on scene.

“We would like to thank Lynchburg Area Joint Fire & Ambulance, Highland County Emergency Management, Highland County Sheriff’s office, Highland County Coroner’s Office, Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Task Force 1 dive team from Hamilton County. the dive team from Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, Eastern Joint Fire District, Fayetteville Fire Department and Box 21 for all their assistance.

“Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of the drowning victim and to our brothers and sisters in blue for the loss of their officer in the line of duty.”

Clinton Co. incident

The Rocky Fork incident comes just over two months after ODNR Division of Wildlife officer Kevin Behr was struck and wounded in Clinton County Dec. 20 when Brian R. Liming, 43, of Jamestown allegedly discharged a firearm while reportedly going after a deer in the woods.

Behr was investigating a deer poaching complaint at the time. At last report, Behr had been hospitalized after undergoing several surgeries. Liming faces charges of alleged assault (felony 4), hunting without a license (misdemeanor 3), hunting permit violation (misdemeanor 3), and having weapons under disability (felony 3) in connection to a shooting involving a wildlife officer in December. He is scheduled to be arraigned March 12 in Clinton County Common Pleas Court.

Liming along with Bryan Achtermann, 36, of Midland, and Thomas Davis, 35, of Jamestown, were allegedly engaged in deer poaching.

Achtermann pled not guilty to charges of no hunting license and no deer permit. Davis pled not guilty to the one charge of unlawfully aiding an offender [allegedly Liming] in prohibited activities, to wit, hunting unlawfully on land without permission from the landowner.

Girl Dies After Falling Through Icy Lake In Ohio; Responding Officer Also Dies

[HTTPS://WWW.CBSNEWS.COM/NEWS/GIRL-DIES-BOY-HURT-FALL-ICY-LAKE-OHIO-OFFICER-ALSO-DIES/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/girl-dies-boy-hurt-fall-icy-lake-ohio-officer-also-dies/)

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 / 7:03 AM / CBS/AP

A 16-year-old girl died and a teenage boy was injured after they fell through an icy lake in Ohio, officials said. Jason Lagore, an Ohio Natural Resources Department police officer who responded to the call at Rocky Fork State Park in Hillsboro, also died after he suffered a medical emergency, authorities said.

Lagore became ill shortly after he responded to the incident, which was reported around 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Authorities said it occurred at a private dock down a steep incline on the north side of Rocky Fork Lake at the 2,080-acre park in Highland County.

The 13-year-old boy tried unsuccessfully to locate the girl before he freed himself from the ice and water, authorities said. The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment of hypothermia, but further details on his condition have not been released.

Odnr Officer Who Died During Water Rescue Posthumously Honored With Award Of Valor

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/odnr-officer-who-died-during-water-rescue-posthumously-honored-with-award-of-valor/ar-AAR2mg7?ocid=uxbndlbing>

Nov 23, 2021

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Officer Jason Lagore, who died in the line of duty earlier this year, was posthumously honored with the Director's Award of Valor.

The award was presented to Lagore's wife in a small ceremony last week.

"Back in February we lost not only a dedicated officer, but a loving husband and devoted father," by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Mary Mertz said in a statement. "Because of his courage and bravery in the face of danger, there is no one more deserving of this honor. I am proud of the work he did and the legacy he leaves behind."

Lagore died on Feb. 23 of an apparent heart attack while responding to a rescue at Rocky Point Lake in Highland County.

He was helping rescue two children who had fallen through the ice at Rocky Fork State Park in Highland County. A 13-year-old boy was rescued, a 15-year-old girl died. During the search, Lagore suffered a medical emergency and was taken to Highland District Hospital in Hillsboro, Ohio, where he was pronounced deceased. Lagore served 15 years with ODNR. ODNR said he was an innovative member of the team, responsible for the first ODNR K-9 academy and leading the Division of Parks and Watercraft K-9 training program. He was well respected across the state for his expertise working with K-9s.

For Lagore it wasn't a job, it was a mission, a calling.



© noneJason LaGore

When he wasn't serving with ODNR, Lagore enjoyed deer and turkey hunting, loved history and enjoyed vacations with his family. He is survived by his wife Michelle, his two young sons and his K-9 partner, Sarge who was officially retired from service last week.

READ THE FULL STORY: ODNR Officer Who Died During Water Rescue Posthumously Honored With Award Of Valor

<https://www.wlwt.com/article/odnr-officer-who-died-during-water-rescue-posthumously-honored-with-award-of-valor/38331211>